PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2008–2009

COMPRISING PERIOD
9 November 2009—12 November 2009

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

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(Formed by the Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown, MP, June 2007)

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LORD STEWARD—The Earl of Dalhousie

MASTER OF THE HORSE—The Rt. Hon. The Lord Vestey, KCVO

TREASURER—The Rt. Hon. Thomas McAvoy, MP

COMPTROLLER—The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP

VICE-CHAMBERLAIN—Helen Jones, MP

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CAPTAIN OF THE QUEEN'S BODYGUARD OF THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD—The Rt. Hon. The Lord Davies of Oldham §

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BARONESSES IN WAITING—The Baroness Farrington of Ribbleton, The Baroness Thornton, The Baroness Crawley

§ *Members of the Government with responsibilities in more than one area*

* *Regional Ministers (in addition to other ministerial responsibilities)*

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Ian Austin, MP (Minister for the West Midlands)
The Rt. Hon. Nicholas Brown, MP (Minister for the North East)
Barbara Follett, MP (Minister for the East of England)
Phil Hope, MP (Minister for the East Midlands)
The Rt. Hon. Tessa Jowell, MP (Minister for London)
The Rt. Hon. Jim Knight, MP (Minister for the South West)
Jonathan Shaw, MP (Minister for the South East)
The Rt. Hon. Rosie Winterton, MP (Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber)
Phil Woolas, MP (Minister for the North West)

SECOND CHURCH ESTATES COMMISSIONER, REPRESENTING CHURCH COMMISSIONERS—Sir Stuart Bell, MP

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First Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means—Sylvia Heal, MP

Second Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means—Sir Michael Lord, MP

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Secretary of the Commission—Dorian Gerhold

Assistant Secretary—Robert Cope

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Secretary of the Management Board—Philippa Helme

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Speaker's Counsel—Michael Carpenter

Speaker's Chaplain—Rev. Canon Robert Wright

Medical Adviser to the Speaker—Dr. Ron Zeegen, OBE, FRCP, MRCS, DObst, RCOG

Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards—John Lyon, CB

Parliamentary Security Co-ordinator—Peter Mason

9 November 2009

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 9 November 2009

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Brussels on 10 November 2009. The following items are on the agenda:

Follow-up to the October European Council

The presidency will provide a de-brief following the meeting of the European Council in Brussels at the end of October. This should focus on work to be taken forward by ECOFIN on financial supervision, fiscal and financial exit strategies, crisis management and the successor to the Lisbon strategy.

Follow-up to the G20 meeting on 6 and 7 November

The presidency and the UK will provide a de-brief on the meeting of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in St. Andrews.

Sustainability of public finances

Ministers will discuss next steps following the publication of the Commission's sustainability report. The Government recognise the importance of sustainable public finances, and are committed to the consolidation path set out in Budget 2009.

Better regulation—Reduction of administrative burdens

Ministers will discuss and agree conclusions on a Commission action programme, calling for more work to reduce administrative burdens by 25 per cent. by 2012. The Government support progress in this area and have pledged their own commitment to meet the 25 per cent. reduction target by 2010.

Taxation

a) Proposal for a Council directive on administrative co-operation in the field of taxation

The Council will be asked to agree a general approach on the directive, which improves exchange of information and brings the EU into line with OECD standards by removing the right to refuse information on grounds of bank secrecy. The UK supports the proposal and further work in this area, which links to the wider G20 agenda on good governance in taxation.

b) VAT treatment of postal services

ECOFIN will be asked to provide political guidelines on how to take further the issue of the VAT treatment of postal services.

c) Proposal for a Council directive amending Directives 92/79/EEC, 92/80/EEC and 95/59/EC on the structure and rates of excise duty applied on manufactured tobacco

The Council will be asked to reach a political agreement on the tobacco directive, which will set out the structure and rates of excise duties applied on manufactured tobacco products as well as implementation dates. The UK supports work in this area, which has the potential to reduce revenue lost from cross-border shopping and smuggling of tobacco products into the UK from low tax EU member states.

Corporate Taxation

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): I am today announcing the Government's intention to introduce in the next Finance Bill a further change to the rules on how groups of companies are taxed when they buy back their issued debt at a discount to the amount borrowed. The further change is in addition to the changes I previously announced in my statement on 14 October.

In my statement on 14 October, I announced that the Government proposed to deal with the circumstances in which companies could buy back their debt at a discount to the amount borrowed without being taxed. I announced changes that would tighten the rules dealing with debt buybacks to ensure that only those debt buybacks that are undertaken as part of genuine corporate rescues will benefit from discount not being subject to tax.

The statement made clear that even if a company benefited from the discount not being taxed under the new proposals, any subsequent cancellation of the debt by the new creditor will result in the debtor being taxed on the previously untaxed discount.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) published more detail on these proposals on 22 October, available at: www.hmrc.gov.uk/drafts/debt-buyback.htm, which clarified the circumstances in which the discount on the debt buyback would not be taxed and the mechanism by which a subsequent release of such a debt would result in the debtor being taxed on the discount.

It has since come to light that groups of companies may be able to avoid the discount, that was not taxed at the time of the buyback, being taxed on the subsequent release of the debt. Groups may be able to achieve this by means of the new creditor accepting ordinary shares in the debtor in order to release the debtor from its liability.

The Government are therefore proposing to introduce additional legislation to prevent this. The new legislation will ensure that where the discount on a buyback is not taxed, any subsequent release of the debt where the consideration for the release is ordinary shares in the debtor or the entitlement to any such shares then the debtor will be taxed on the previously untaxed discount arising on the debt buyback.

The further legislation announced today will have effect in relation to releases of debt that occur on or after today in relation to any debt that was the subject of a debt buyback occurring on or after 14 October and to which the proposed legislation announced on 14 October will apply.

Draft legislation will today be published on HMRC's website covering both the 14 October and today's announcements.

I am also today announcing the Government's intention to present to Parliament in the next Finance Bill amendments to the "debt cap" provisions set out in Schedule 15 of Finance Act 2009.

The debt cap forms part of the important reforms to the taxation of the foreign profits of UK companies, which the Government introduced in Finance Bill 2009. The cornerstone of the foreign profits package was the wide-ranging dividend exemption, effective from July this year, which was strongly welcomed by business.

This allows UK companies to bring profits back to the UK free of UK tax. To make the dividend exemption affordable, the Government worked closely with business to introduce a debt cap guarding against excessive debt funding of UK companies, which will be effective from 1 January 2010.

The amendments announced today will ensure that the debt cap functions as intended, providing Exchequer revenue protection while at the same time keeping the compliance burden as small as possible. Specifically, there will be the following amendments made:

Legislation will be introduced to remove accountancy mismatches in the application of the gateway test to ensure that a consistent way of measuring liabilities is used in arriving both at the worldwide group's gross debt and the net debt of UK companies.

Legislation will be introduced to put beyond doubt that preference shares are excluded from the relevant liabilities both of the worldwide group and of UK companies when applying the gateway test.

Legislation will be introduced to extend the definition of "financial instrument" to include all derivatives, such as options, swaps, futures, forwards and contracts for differences. This is because the current definition, which relies on the FSA handbook, may exclude certain derivatives which are routinely traded by many banks and other financial institutions. The change will ensure that groups are not disqualified from the "qualifying financial services groups" exemption because they undertake such dealings.

Legislation will be introduced allowing companies to elect that no debt cap disallowance is allocated to them. This will benefit companies, such as those involved in whole business securitisations, that need certainty of tax treatment in order to protect their credit ratings. This legislation will also mandatorily restrict the allocation of disallowances to dual resident investment companies.

Legislation will be introduced to extend the definition of "financing income", so that guarantee fees are included as financing income. This provides consistency of treatment where guarantee fees are paid within a group, or are deemed to be paid under transfer pricing legislation, since a guarantee fee is already treated as a financing expense of the payer.

Legislation will be introduced to refine the definition of a group treasury company for the purposes of the debt cap rules so as to exclude trading companies performing a peripheral group treasury company function.

Legislation will allow interest paid by UK subsidiaries of tax-exempt non-departmental public bodies to disregard interest they pay to that body for debt cap purposes.

Legislation will be introduced to clarify what is meant by "ancillary costs" relating to amounts borrowed, for the purpose of computing the available amount.

Legislation will be introduced to deal with the case where external borrowing is undertaken by a partnership in which a UK company is a partner. This will ensure that the available amount reflects the economic cost to the group of borrowing by partnerships in which it has an interest, and is computed in a way consistent with the UK tax treatment of partnership debts.

Legislation will be introduced to ensure that certain partnerships, formed under the laws of an overseas territory, qualify for the collective investment scheme exclusion for the purposes of identifying an ultimate parent company under the debt cap rules. Where an overseas corporate fund vehicle has a majority stake in a number of commercially unrelated groups of companies, this will minimise the possibility of all of its controlled holdings being treated as a single group for debt cap purposes.

Legislation will be introduced to ensure that securitisation companies, which come within the special tax regimes we introduced in 2005, are excluded from the debt cap rules. This will ensure that the "tax-neutral" status of these companies is not jeopardised and will avoid any adverse effect on their credit ratings.

A new power will be introduced to allow the definitions of the available amount and the tested expense amount to be changed or added to through secondary legislation. Regulations made under this power will be capable of having effect from 1 January of the calendar year in which they are made. This will ensure that difficulties arising where the accounting treatment for external borrowing in the consolidated accounts differs from that in a UK company's individual accounts can be addressed through regulations.

A technical paper providing further details of all of these changes is being issued on HMRC's website today. Draft legislative amendments will be published alongside the 2009 Pre-Budget report for comment.

Monetary Policy Committee

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): A Treasury minute on the contingent liabilities arising from the extension of the Asset Purchase Facility is being published today. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Higher Education Funding and Student Finance (Review)

The Minister for Higher Education and Intellectual Property (Mr. David Lammy): My noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has today made the following statement:

Today I have appointed Lord Browne of Madingley to chair an independent review of higher education funding and student finance. In addition to Lord Browne, the review will have six other members chosen for the breadth and depth of their experience and expertise. These are Michael Barber, Diane Coyle, David Eastwood, Julia King, Rajay Naik and Peter Sands. I have discussed these appointments and the terms of reference for the review, set out below, with the hon. Member for Havant (Mr. Willetts). We are both committed to ensuring the independent nature of this important piece of work. The review fulfils the commitment made by the Government during the Commons stages of the Higher Education Act 2004 to review the operation of variable tuition fees after these had been in force for three years.

Variable tuition fees have provided institutions with a secure income stream worth £1.3 billion per year, which has helped to sustain the long-term financial health and viability of this crucially important sector. Over this time, the number of students attending university has continued to rise, as has the number coming from lower-income backgrounds.

To continue to thrive in the coming decade, institutions will need to respond to the changing needs of students, businesses and the wider community as well as adapt to demographic changes and growing international competition.

The independent review will consider the balance of contributions from all those who benefit from the higher education system. It will consult with all those with an interest in higher education in this country, including current and potential students. The review will also convene an advisory forum to draw on the views and expertise of a range of representatives with interests in higher education.

The review will report to Government with recommendations next year. Any changes implemented following the review would come into effect in the academic year 2011-12 at the earliest.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The review will analyse the challenges and opportunities facing higher education and their implications for student financing and support. It will examine the balance of contributions to higher education funding by taxpayers, students, graduates and employers. Its primary task is to make recommendations to Government on the future of fees policy and financial support for full and part-time undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Notes:

1. In assessing options the review will be expected to take into account:

The goal of widening participation to ensure that the benefits of higher education are open to all who have the talent and motivation to succeed; the avoidance of the creation of barriers to wider access; the impact of the system of bursary payments; promoting fair access to all institutions; facilitating choice and a diversity of access routes to higher education, including through links with further education colleges; and the scope for a greater diversity of models of learning, such as modular and part-time study and the availability of student support for such courses.

Affordability for students and their families during their studies and afterwards; impact on public finances including affordability, sustainability and value for money for the taxpayer.

The desirability of simplification of the system of support.

2. The review will take evidence from within higher education and among those with an interest in its success, including an advisory forum to be convened by the chair.

3. The review will work with the Office for Fair Access and HEFCE and collaborate with Professor Adrian Smith's review of postgraduate study. Its work will also take into account the conclusions of Professor Sir Martin Harris's review on promoting access to higher education.

4. The review is expected to report by the autumn of 2010.

DEFENCE

Detention Policy

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): UK forces in Afghanistan form part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and contribute to the efforts of the international community to assist the Government of Afghanistan to expand security and build the rule of law.

The Taliban insurgents are ruthless and indiscriminate in their attempts to kill and maim our troops and the Afghan people.

In his statement on the 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 394 on the detention and transfer of persons captured by UK forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, my right hon. Friend the then Secretary of State for Defence set out the value of detention operations to our campaign in Afghanistan. Detention operations by UK forces are conducted in accordance with, and the holding of detainees in UK facilities meets, the standards required by, the relevant provisions of international law.

In the light of the evolving threat to our forces, we have continued to keep our approach to these operations under review. Under NATO guidelines individuals detained by ISAF are either transferred to the Afghan authorities within 96 hours for further action through the Afghan judicial process or released. And in the majority of cases, the UK forces will operate in this manner. However, in exceptional circumstances, detaining individuals beyond 96 hours can yield vital intelligence that would help protect our forces and the local population—potentially saving lives, particularly when detainees are suspected of holding information on the placement of improvised explosive devices.

Given the ongoing threat faced by our forces and the local Afghan population, this information is critical, and in some cases 96 hours will not be long enough to gain that information from the detainee. Indeed, many insurgents are aware of the 96 hours policy and simply say nothing for that entire period. In these circumstances, the Government have concluded that Ministers should be able to authorise detention beyond 96 hours, in British detention facilities to which the ICRC has access. Each case will be thoroughly scrutinised against the relevant legal and policy considerations; we will only do this where it is legal to do so and when it is necessary to support the operation and protect our troops.

Following a ministerial decision to authorise extended detention, each case will be thoroughly and regularly monitored by in-theatre military commanders and civilian advisers. Individuals will not remain in UK detention if there is no further intelligence to be gained. We will then either release the detainee or transfer the detainee to the Afghan authorities. We have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Government of Afghanistan, requiring that individuals detained by UK forces and transferred to the Afghan authorities are treated properly. Following transfer, we continue to work with the Afghans in support of their judicial processes, maintaining close links and monitoring the application of the MOU, including through regular visits by Royal Military Police and British embassy staff to transferred detainees. The ICRC also has access to the Afghan system.

We ask our armed forces to operate in highly dangerous environments. In Afghanistan the capacity of the local agencies to enforce security and the rule of law is growing by the day, but it is vital that our forces have the authority and the capability to deal effectively with the serious threat to troops and those they are there to protect. I recognise the sensitivity of detention operations, but they are fundamental to the success of our military operations in Afghanistan, as has been proven in other operational areas.

UK forces in Afghanistan operate, and will continue to operate, in accordance with international law and with the highest standards of conduct that we rightly expect of them.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Environment Council

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, and Andy Lebrecht, UKRep, represented the UK at the Environment Council on 21 October in Luxembourg.

Member states reached agreement on the Council conclusions concerning the EU position for the forthcoming Copenhagen climate conference. Dinner discussions on 20 October saw early positioning of member states for the following day's debate and the UK was among those arguing for ambitious conclusions to send a clear signal of intent prior to the international negotiations in December. The Council agreed on a text containing three compromises relating to the long-term EU emissions-reduction target, bunker fuels and assigned amount units (AAUs). At lunch, the discussion centred on the need to engage with business and expertise as well as co-ordinating EU messaging and maintaining contact in the run-up to Copenhagen.

Ministers also adopted Council conclusions relating to the role of a low-carbon, resource-efficient economy in the post-2010 Lisbon strategy. The UK welcomed the aims of the conclusions.

On the subject of ship dismantling, the Council also approved conclusions calling for the early ratification and implementation of the Hong Kong international convention for the safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships and inviting the Commission to consider EU legislation in this area.

A policy debate reviewing the restriction of hazardous substances (RoHS) and waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) directives highlighted different views among member states regarding the scope of the directives. The UK raised concerns about moving to an "open" scope for both directives without proper assessment of the impacts of such a move and this was supported by several other member states. The presidency concluded that most delegations were open to separate scopes for RoHS but that the scope of WEEE need further reflection.

Ministers also discussed several AOB items. A number of member states highlighted the problem of forest fires. In response to concerns about the "cocktail" effect of mixtures of chemicals, the presidency confirmed they would present conclusions to the December Environment Council. Several delegations shared their concerns about "plastic soup"—plastic marine debris floating in the oceans.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Communications Data Consultation

The Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism (Mr. David Hanson): On April 27 the Home Office published a consultation, "Protecting the Public in a Changing Communications Environment", which set out the importance of communications data in helping to protect and safeguard the public; how the rapidly changing communications environment means the existing capability of the police, the security and intelligence agencies and other public authorities is declining and why change is necessary. Today I am publishing the Summary and Responses submitted as part of this consultation exercise.

Communications data are information about a communication but do not include the content of a communication.

Used in the right way, and subject to important safeguards to protect individuals' right to privacy, communications data can play a critical role in keeping all of us safe. It enables investigators to identify suspects and their associates; provides vital clues in solving life-threatening situations such as kidnaps, and evidence supporting alibis and prosecutions; supports lawful interception of communications; and assists the emergency services to help or locate vulnerable people. It is also critical to safeguarding our national security, and in particular to countering the terrorist threat.

The consultation paper sought views on options for maintaining our vital communications data capabilities to protect the public against a background of rapid technological change. It rejected options for both a single database holding all communications data and a "do nothing" option. Instead it proposed a "middle way" approach involving two main elements for which new legislation would be required. These elements were:

> i) provisions to impose obligations on CSPs relating to the collection and retention of specified communications data which cross their networks (including third party and other data which are not currently retained for business purposes or under existing legislation); and
>
> ii) provisions to impose obligations on CSPs to organise the communications data they retain in a specified way enabling specific lawful requests for data by public authorities to be processed efficiently and effectively.

The Home Office received 221 responses to the consultation exercise. As explained in the Summary and Responses, the Government's rejection of a central database for all communications data was welcomed. There was also recognition of the importance of communications data and agreement that the capability of communications data to protect the public should be maintained.

As we develop the approach proposed in the consultation in the light of the responses received, we will continue to work closely with communications service providers in order to minimise as far as possible any impact on them. We will also ensure that any new proposals will include strong safeguards to minimise the potential for abuse and to ensure the security and integrity of the data.

A copy of the Summary of Responses will be placed in the House Library.

JUSTICE

Data Protection

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): I am today publishing a consultation paper entitled "Civil Monetary Penalties, Setting the Maximum Penalty". The paper explains the Government's proposal to set the maximum penalty for civil monetary penalties at £500,000. Civil monetary penalties, as set out under sections 55A-E of the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) would be imposed by the Information Commissioner for serious breaches of the data protection principles.

The Government are particularly seeking views from data controllers on the level of the proposed penalty, but responses to the consultation are welcome from anyone with an interest. The Government's proposal to introduce civil monetary penalties reflects the importance that Government place on safeguarding personal data effectively and processing them responsibly and lawfully. The proposals will potentially affect data controllers in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, so this consultation is UK-wide.

Before imposing any civil monetary penalties the Information Commissioner has a statutory obligation to publish detailed guidance setting out the criteria it will use when imposing a civil monetary penalty, and circumstances it will take into consideration.

The Information Commissioner's Office has published on its website the latest draft of its guidance on civil monetary penalties and would welcome comments on it.

The introduction of civil monetary penalties should contribute to increased compliance with the data protection principles and greater confidence for data subjects that their information is being handled correctly.

Copies of the consultation paper and associated impact assessment will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and on the Department's website at: www.justice.gov.uk

Body Orifice Security Scanners

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Maria Eagle): I am making this statement to update the House about the roll-out of Body Orifice Security Scanners (BOSS) chairs.

In my written ministerial statement of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 4WS stated that we had equipped all prisons with a Body Orifice Security Scanner (BOSS) chair and that the roll-out was completed in May. It has now been brought to my attention that five out the 128 BOSS chairs were not delivered on time and I wish to update the House. All chairs have now been delivered; one in June, three in July and one in September. The relevant Prison Service Instruction (PSI) mandates that governors must ensure that use of the BOSS is incorporated into local security strategies in the light of local operational priorities.

TRANSPORT

National Policy Statement for Ports

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for the Department for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following ministerial statement:

> The Department for Transport is launching today the public consultation on a draft "National Policy Statement for Ports" in England and Wales. I am laying the draft before the House and placing copies of the consultation in the House Library.
>
> This national policy statement forms a key element of the Government's programme to deliver the reforms to the planning system included in last year's Planning Act. As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has announced in the other place, the Government are also today publishing for consultation a series of national policy statements for energy infrastructure.
>
> The aim of the reforms to the planning system set out in the Planning Act is to make the planning system more responsive to challenges such as climate change, more streamlined, efficient and predictable, and more transparent and accountable with full and fair opportunities for public consultation and community engagement.
>
> The draft "National Policy Statement for Ports" sets out the broad need for ports capacity looking ahead to 2030 and beyond, taking account in particular of our forecasts of port freight demand and the regional and local economic benefits of port activity. It also restates the Government's long-standing policy that this need can be best met by an efficient and competitive ports industry operating in a free-market environment. It further sets out, in the context of the Government's overall objectives for sustainable development, including mitigating and adapting to climate change and the achievement of good design, how the various potential adverse impacts of port development should be addressed by applicants with a view to avoiding, mitigating and where necessary compensating for such impacts. It notes how ports can support the development of low-carbon energy sources and a low-carbon economy. And it provides guidance about how the Infrastructure Planning Commission must weight any residual impacts in considering applications for nationally significant port developments, including in setting requirements and agreeing obligations for consented developments.
>
> The Department is also publishing, in parallel, its Appraisal of Sustainability of the draft national policy statement, incorporating a strategic environmental assessment, as well as an impact assessment and an assessment of the NPS under the habitats and wild birds directives and regulations. Consultees will be able to comment on these if they wish. I am placing copies of the main Appraisal of Sustainability in the House Library.
>
> The public consultation being launched today invites views on the extent to which this national policy statement provides a suitable framework for the Infrastructure Planning Commission in making decisions about consents for new port developments. Their decisions will be based primarily on national policy statements, so it is all the more important that people have a full opportunity to comment on the detailed drafting. The consultation closes on 15 February but I encourage people to respond earlier where possible in order to allow their comments to be taken into account in parliamentary scrutiny of the policy statement. Consultees are also invited to participate in consultation events to be organised by my Department in London, Leeds and Cardiff. The consultation is at: www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/portsnps.
>
> Section 9(7) of the Planning Act requires the Secretary of State to stipulate the "relevant period" in which, if either House makes a resolution or a Committee of either House makes recommendations with regard to the proposal to designate an NPS, he will lay a statement in response. I hereby stipulate the relevant period as that beginning today and ending on 6 May 2010.
>
> The House may wish to be aware that the Department for Transport is continuing to work up for consultation a draft NPS for England's strategic road and rail networks. The advice I have commissioned from High Speed 2 on high speed rail services is likely to be a significant factor in determining future policy. I have now concluded that it would be appropriate to publish this NPS early next year, having considered the HS2 report. In addition, I still expect to publish a draft NPS for airports by 2011.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Pension Protection System

The Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society (Angela Eagle): As hon. Members are aware some of the administrative resource costs of the pensions regulator (tPR), the Pension Protection Fund (PPF), the Pensions Advisory Service (TPAS) and the pensions ombudsman (PO) are recovered through levies raised on pension schemes. The rates for these levies are set in regulations.

The PPF administration levy recovers the administration costs of the board of the PPF only in relation to its PPF activities. Any administration costs in relation to PPF's financial assistance scheme responsibilities are funded separately and there is no cross-subsidy from the PPF levy.

The general levy provides for some of the administration costs of tPR and those of TPAS and the PO. Activities the regulator is undertaking in relation to the employer compliance regime are not met from the general levy and are funded separately. There is no cross-subsidy between the two funding sources.

I am pleased to announce that for 2010-11 we will continue to freeze the rates for both the PPF administration levy and the general levy at the same levels set for 2008-09.

This will be the third year that we have kept rates stable and delivers on the Government's intention to provide levy cost stability for pension schemes.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 10 November 2009

TREASURY

Budget ECOFIN

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): I plan to attend the Budget ECOFIN to be held on 19 November in Brussels. Items on the provisional agenda include the following.

Preliminary Draft Amending Budget No. 10 for 2009: Ministers will be invited to adopt this Preliminary Draft Amending Budget, which would amend the 2009 EC Budget to reflect latest implementation capacity and to contribute to financing the second part of the European economic recovery plan.

Letter of Amendment No. 2 to the Preliminary Draft Budget for 2010: Ministers will be invited to discuss this amending letter, which reflects latest information on agricultural prices and other developments influencing future implementation capacity and expenditure. It also provides for appropriations for the second part of the European economic recovery plan, and for continued support to nuclear decommissioning in Bulgaria.

Draft Budget for 2010: the Council will seek to agree its Second Reading position on the draft Budget in preparation for the subsequent conciliation with the European Parliament. Council will then conclude its Second Reading and finalise figures for compulsory expenditure (mainly agriculture). The UK will seek a budget that respects the principles of budget discipline and sound financial management, and reflects realistic forecasts for agriculture and structural funds spending.

Proposal to amend the inter-institutional agreement of 17 May 2006 as regards the multi-annual financial framework: the Council will consider a Commission proposal to revise the ceilings for expenditure set down in the financial framework 2007-2013, in order to secure financing for the European economic recovery plan. The UK will seek a financing solution that ensures the required funding for projects, and avoids an increase to the overall financial framework ceiling.

DEFENCE

Defence Advisory Forum

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): In my written ministerial statement of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 121WS announcing the appointment of a Defence Advisory Forum I undertook to inform the House of the membership of the forum once this was confirmed.

I have appointed to the forum:

The Right Honourable and learned Sir Menzies Campbell MP
Professor Malcolm Chalmers
Professor Colin S. Gray
Professor Mary Kaldor
Sir David Manning
Sir David Omand
Sir John Parker
The Right Honourable Lord Robertson of Port Ellen
Paul Skinner
General (Retired) Sir Rupert Smith
The Honourable Nicholas Soames MP
Philip Stephens

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

British Waterways Board

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies): In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 8(2) of the first schedule to Transport Act 1962, the following information is furnished by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural affairs.

In exercise of the powers conferred by paragraph 8(1) of that schedule, and now vested in him, the Secretary of State has determined, with the approval of the Treasury, that, with effect from 1 July 2009, the salaries of the members of the British Waterways board shall be as follows:

	Fees (£)	*Allowances (£)*	*Annual Remuneration (£)*
Tony Hales (Chair)	51,359		51,359
Richard Bowker (Vice-chair to September 2009)	17,442	2,500	19,942
Margaret Carver	13,225	2,500	15,725
Eric Prescott	13,225	2,000	15,225
John Bridgeman (Vice-chair from 1 October)	17,442	4,500	21,942
John Bywater	13,225	2,000	15,225
Prodaman Sarwal	13,225	2,000	15,225
Rodney Green	13,225	1,000	14,225
Nigel Hugill	13,225	3,500	16,725
Duncan Sutherland*	13,225	3,000	16,225
Jonathan Hargreaves*	13,225	3,500	16,725

* Scottish Ministers' Appointee

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): My hon. Friend the Member for Ogmore (Huw Irranca-Davies), the Minister with responsibility for marine and the natural environment and the Minister with responsibility for food, farming and environment, my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick), represented the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Luxembourg on 19 and 20 October. Richard Lochhead MSP also attended.

On agriculture, France, spearheading a large group of member states, had deposited a paper with the presidency calling for an active policy of dairy market management, and specifically, a €300 million dairy fund. This latter point complemented a call from the European Parliament in its first reading on the 2010 budget for a fund of the same proportion.

Responding to the paper, the Commission observed that each of the measures called for had either been addressed, or were the subject of ongoing study, or discussion. As for the dairy fund, the Commission said they would make €280 million available for the dairy sector from the 2010 ceiling, subject to a few conditions. First, as competence for budgetary matters rested with ECOFIN, it would be for finance Ministers to decide whether to take the proposal forward. Secondly, should the fund be adopted, there would be no further money available as provision against other crises in 2010. Thirdly, the Commission asserted that it had done all it could to respond to the crisis and no further action would be possible.

Greece and Belgium called for the full €300 million fund to be made available. France acknowledged that short-term measures were on track, but insisted that more needed to be done and that a new regulatory framework was necessary for the dairy sector—a point rejected by the UK who clarified that it did not support the French paper or the dairy fund. Only the Netherlands, Denmark and Malta agreed with the UK.

The Commission also presented its quarterly report on the sector, confirming a boost in prices for most dairy commodities (only cheese was lagging and that was in the normal order of things); as well as its proposal to assume new emergency powers to respond to dairy market disturbances, and to provide funds for dairy market restructuring by way of new rules on calculating the superlevy.

Turning to poultry meat, the presidency secured a qualified majority on the proposal to extend marketing standards to preparations. Voting against the proposal, the UK made a statement to the Council minutes, noting the disproportionate cost impact on the UK market (some 66 per cent. of the community market), as well as criticising the Commission's failure to carry out an impact assessment before adopting the draft legislation. The presidency noted both the UK's comments and the fact that the proposal had been adopted.

With the Standing Committee failing to reach a qualified majority for or against approval for use in food and feed (not planting) of three new GM maize varieties, the dossiers came to Council for confirmation of voting intentions. The presidency noted that, with no qualified majority for or against, the dossiers would now revert back to the Commission to complete the decision making process.

There were three AOB agriculture items. Poland tabled its paper urging Council to consider its request to continue financing agricultural land purchases through to 2013. Portugal, supported by the UK, called on the Commission to suspend import duties on cane sugar. Austria called for activation of export refunds for landlocked cereals producers, as well as help with transport costs and the opening of intervention for maize in response to falling cereals' prices.

Turning to fisheries, Council reached political agreement on the text of the new regulation to update the monitoring and enforcement framework for EU fisheries. The Commission, referring to a recently tabled presidency compromise that resolved some concerns of member states, highlighted a number of remaining issues.

The presidency and Commission then held trilateral meetings with nearly all member states during the day to fashion a final compromise. The UK had the first trilateral and in response to the president's request for member nations we focused on three significant priorities that had to be resolved, which comprised an offending provision on recreational fishing; demands on weighing tolerance; and the removal of the provision on minimum levels. The Commission also confirmed in the trilateral that pelagic weighting would be addressed.

When Council reconvened, the presidency tabled a final compromise which included all the points prioritised by the UK. In a final table round, the compromise was adopted by unanimity.

Council also reached political agreement on the regulation governing fishing opportunities in the Baltic for 2010. Trilateral meetings were held with interested member states during the day and agreement was reached on a compromise, of which the main elements were reduced TAC cuts for western herring, main Baltic herring, Atlantic salmon and sprat; 10 per cent. fishing effort limitations in some zones, a "high grading" ban and increased selectivity.

Ministers then had an exchange of views on the priorities for the forthcoming negotiations on the annual EU-Norway fisheries agreement which is of significant importance to UK fisheries. The Commission emphasised the difficult context for the negotiations, and the need for member states' support in the negotiations. The UK stressed the need for a fair solution on Arctic cod, and also the difficult situation on mackerel because of autonomous quotas set by Norway and Faeroes.

Under other fisheries business, Lithuania tabled a paper seeking support for financial assistance for the renewal of outdated fishing vessels. The Commission sought support for a firm EU position in the forthcoming meeting of ICCAT (International Commission on the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna). Finally, the Commission raised the EU-Guinea (Conakry) Fisheries Partnership Agreement signed late 2008. It referred in strong terms to the recent attack on protestors by public authorities and noted international condemnation. Therefore, in these circumstances, the Commission said it was not appropriate to proceed with the legal adoption of the agreement and they would now go through the necessary processes formally to withdraw the relevant proposals.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Indian Ocean Territory: Marine Protection

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): The Government are today launching a public consultation into a proposal put forward by the Chagos Environment Network to establish a marine protected area in the British Indian Ocean Territory.

The Chagos Environment Network's proposal "The Chagos Archipelago: its Nature and the Future" advocates the creation of one of the world's greatest natural conservation areas and is a remarkable opportunity for

Britain to create one of the world's largest marine protected areas and double the global coverage of the world's oceans benefiting from protection.

The purpose of the consultation is to seek views from stakeholders and interested parties to help the Government assess whether a marine protected area is the right option for the future environmental protection of the territory and we are, therefore, strongly encouraging as many people as possible to participate in the consultation. We are also arranging for a facilitator to travel to Port Louis and Victoria early next year to listen to the views of the Chagossian communities and other stakeholders in Mauritius and Seychelles. The consultation will run until 12 February 2010.

Copies of the consultation are available on: www.fco.gov.uk, www.ukinmauritius.fco.gov.uk and www.ukinseychelles.fco.gov.uk, and are being disseminated widely to interested groups.

Draft Antarctic Bill

The Minister for Europe (Chris Bryant): I am pleased to inform the House that the Draft Antarctic Bill has been laid today, as Command Paper (Cm 7635). The draft Bill will now be open for public consultation until the 12 February 2010 and key stakeholders have been written to requesting their views. The Command Paper is available from the Vote Office and on the FCO website at: www.fco.gov.uk/antarcticbill

HEALTH

"The NHS Constitution: a consultation on new patients rights"

The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham): The Department of Health has today published the consultation document—"The NHS Constitution: a consultation on new patient rights".

The NHS constitution brings together in one place what the NHS does, what it stands for and the commitments it should live up to. It describes the values and enduring principles of the NHS. To guarantee that the NHS constitution is relevant and up to date it will need to change over time to reflect public priorities and developments in medical technology, and evidence.

Today's consultation sets out and seeks views on proposals for new rights to be included in the constitution, including a right to start consultant-led treatment within 18 weeks of referral by a general practitioner, or to be seen by a cancer specialist within two weeks of GP referral. Where this is not possible the NHS will have to take all reasonable steps to offer the patient a range of alternative providers where they could begin treatment or be seen sooner.

This consultation also proposes that our commitment to the NHS health check programme, which assesses an individual's risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease becomes a right for all people aged 40 to 74.

The consultation also welcomes views on areas where we believe we will soon be able to offer rights, such as dentistry, evening and weekend access to GPs, personal health budgets, the ability to choose to die at home and rapid access to diagnostic tests.

The consultation document has been placed in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office.

TRANSPORT

London Midland Franchise

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Mole): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for the Department for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following ministerial statement:

> The performance of London Midland on 6 September 2009 fell short of its customers' expectations and was unacceptable to both passengers and Government.
>
> I can now outline the measures I have taken, and the actions I have agreed with London Midland in respect of London Midland's breach of its franchise agreement.
>
> First, I have issued London Midland with a remedial plan notice for exceeding the franchise agreement threshold on cancellations. This requires London Midland to submit to me a remedial plan for addressing the level of cancellations. Discussions are at an advanced stage on a range of measures to be implemented within the remedial plan.
>
> The remedial plan will be contractualised as a remedial agreement.
>
> Secondly, a package of additional benefits for passengers has been agreed, including:
>
> an additional franchise agreement obligation to invest in new, and additional, high-quality information equipment, spending no less than £4.4 million over the life of the franchise in addition to the investment that has already committed in the franchise agreement; and
>
> a promotion for 50,000 day rover tickets for travel over the Christmas period and London Midland will also make available an additional 400,000 advance purchase tickets over the next two years on some of the most popular routes.

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Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 11 November 2009

TREASURY

G 20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting was held on 6 and 7 November. A copy of the Communiqué and a progress report on the economic and financial actions of the London, Washington and Pittsburgh G20 summits prepared by the UK Chair have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Pre-Budget Report

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): I propose to present the pre-Budget report to the House of Commons on 9 December.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Insolvency Service Consultation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Ian Lucas): I am setting out today the Government's response to the recent Insolvency Service consultation on encouraging company rescue.

In launching the consultation, the Government identified the importance of maintaining an effective and fair corporate insolvency framework that enables viable businesses facing temporary difficulties to turn themselves round, helping to preserve jobs and livelihoods. The consultation document invited views on a number of possible measures to further enhance the existing regime, including moratoria for companies that need a breathing space in order to agree restructuring proposals with their creditors, and measures to promote increased access to rescue finance.

More than 50 businesses, individuals, and representative bodies responded to the consultation. The majority of respondents supported the Government's view that despite the challenges faced by business in the current difficult economic conditions, the existing statutory framework for company rescue is performing well, and continues to compare well internationally.

The moratoria proposals were broadly welcomed. Respondents made a number of helpful comments and suggestions as to how the potential benefits could be maximised, while minimising the risks to creditors. The Insolvency Service will be taking forward more detailed development of the relevant proposals over the coming months, building on feedback received from the consultation.

In relation to rescue finance, the views of respondents were more divided. A number suggested that in practice the availability of new finance for companies seeking to restructure was less of an issue than had been indicated, and that the need for legislative change was not apparent. Stakeholders also recognised the need to balance the benefits of possible legislative changes against some of the risks, particularly if changes had a negative impact on the behaviour of lending institutions towards businesses in general. Having considered the consultation responses on this issue, the Government have decided that it will not for the moment be taking forward the finance-related proposals. We will however continue to work with stakeholders to monitor the position going forward.

Copies of the non-confidential responses to the consultation are being published today on the Insolvency Service website: www.insolvency.gov.uk, together with a summary of those responses.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Independent Advisory Group on Teenage Pregnancy

The Minister for Children, Young People and Families (Dawn Primarolo): I have today placed in the Library of the House the Government's response to the fifth annual report of the Teenage Pregnancy Independent Advisory Group.

The Government welcome the recommendations made in the independent advisory group's fifth annual report and acknowledge the valuable contribution the group makes to the strategy and its implementation. We have carefully considered and responded to all of them. The Government have taken forward all the major recommendations including making sex and relationships education statutory within personal, social, health and economic education from 2011, and investing more than £45 million in improving young people's awareness and access to effective contraception.

The Government are also taking forward other recommendations of the group to improve the ways that local services work together to prevent teenage pregnancy and improve outcomes for teenage parents and their children—with better co-ordination between education, children's and health services. As a key issue of health inequalities, child poverty and social exclusion, Government are urging local areas to continue prioritising and investing in their local teenage pregnancy strategy to help accelerate progress.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): On 5-6 November, I visited Bosnia and Herzegovina. During my visit I met with the three member joint presidency, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Prime Minister of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Prime Minister of Republika

Srpska and leaders of seven political parties. I also met with representatives of civil society and visited the International Commission For Missing Persons.

The British Government are strongly committed to Bosnia and Herzegovina's security and stability. Our vision is of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a fully functioning state making real progress towards membership of the EU and NATO. In my meetings with Bosnia and Herzegovina's political leaders, I reconfirmed the UK's commitment to the processes of EU and NATO enlargement, and to Bosnia and Herzegovina's future membership of both organisations. I emphasised the need for compliance with the Dayton framework. I made clear UK concern about the prolonged slowing down of reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and stressed that without genuine action to unblock reforms there was a risk of Bosnia and Herzegovina falling behind the rest of the region on its path to membership of the EU and NATO.

I made clear that the UK wanted to see the transition of the international presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina from the Office of the High Representative to a European Union Special Representative but only on the basis of full completion of the conditions and objectives set by the Peace Implementation Council in February 2008. I encouraged the party leaders to redouble their efforts to make progress on the outstanding conditionality.

In this context, I urged Bosnia and Herzegovina's political leaders to engage wholeheartedly and constructively in the EU/US initiative to reinvigorate the reform process. The initiative offers an important opportunity for Bosnia and Herzegovina's political leaders to engage together in order to find a way through some of the blockages. This initiative is evidence of the international community's strong engagement: it needs to be met with a corresponding political will on the part of Bosnia and Herzegovina's leaders.

In my meetings with the joint presidency and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, I welcomed Bosnia and Herzegovina's election to non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council in 2010-11. This will be an important opportunity for Bosnia and Herzegovina to contribute to addressing threats to international peace and security. The United Kingdom looks forward to developing a close partnership with Bosnia and Herzegovina on UN Security Council business including through intensified policy exchanges and the provision, by our Embassy in Sarajevo, of capacity-building workshops.

I visited the headquarters of the International Commission for Missing Persons (ICMP) which is based in Sarajevo and saw at first hand the pioneering DNA-based work carried out by ICMP to identify the remains of missing persons. This work makes a vital contribution to peace and stability in the region and to regional and international judicial processes. The British Government are a strong supporter of ICMP's work.

I also had valuable meetings with representatives of civil society including with representatives of non-governmental organisations who have been partners of the UK in taking forward project work under our conflict prevention and strategic programme funds. I also met with British members of the EU military and policing missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Chris Bryant): The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) will be held on 16 and 17 November in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development, my noble Friend the Minister of State for International Defence and Security, Baroness Taylor, and I will represent the UK.

The agenda items are as follows:

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Preparation of the 10 and 11 December European Council

The GAERC will discuss the presidency's draft agenda for the December European Council. We expect the European Council to focus on the economic and financial situation, with a view to reaching agreement on the Commission's proposals for financial supervision and regulation. The December European Council will also adopt the EU's new work programme (the "Stockholm programme") setting out priorities for EU cooperation in Justice and Home Affairs from 2010-14. There may also be discussions on a new Lisbon strategy post-2010, enlargement and external issues.

Post-2010 Lisbon Strategy

Ministers will discuss the post-2010 successor to the Lisbon Strategy for Jobs and Growth. The successor strategy should build on the economic and structural reform programme set out by the initial strategy. At the October European Council, EU leaders agreed to draw up a European strategy for jobs and growth, to secure a strong and sustainable economic recovery. The October European Council stressed the importance of reforms to strengthen the internal market, deliver investment in the industries and jobs of the future, promote increased trade and strengthen the financial sector.

EU Sustainable Development Strategy

On the basis of a presidency report, Ministers are expected to discuss the priority areas for the EU sustainable development strategy (SDS) and how these should be delivered. We expect conclusions to be adopted by the December European Council, which will influence the decision on whether there should be a fundamental review of the strategy, due by 2011 at the latest. A recent review identified a number of areas where the EU is not on track to meet the targets in the SDS, and considered how its principles could influence policy-making more effectively. The Government support strengthening these aspects of the EU SDS and also ensuring that it is well co-ordinated with other EU strategies such as the Lisbon strategy.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Russia

Discussion will focus on the forthcoming EU-Russia summit on 18 November. The Government welcome the presidency's close consultation on plans for the summit and support the priorities identified in the agenda. If a wider discussion opens up, I will seek to debrief partners on my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's recent visit to Moscow.

Ukraine

Ministers will discuss preparations for the EU-Ukraine summit in Kyiv on 4 December. Ukraine is an important neighbour of the EU and a key country within the new eastern partnership. The summit is also important because it will take place in the month before presidential elections. We want the presidency to use the summit to further stimulate Ukraine's democratic development, promote political and economic reform, deepen the process of European integration through the new association agreement and help Ukraine consolidate its sovereignty.

Ukraine has been badly hit by the global economic crisis and the summit offers an opportunity to reiterate the EU's strong support for the IMF programme that has been put together to help Ukraine get through the crisis. A package of EU macro-financial assistance might also be offered subject to the IMF programme remaining on track. Ukraine is a key transit country for Russian gas and is therefore of great importance to the EU's energy security. We want the presidency to use the summit to help ensure Ukraine remains a reliable partner on energy issues.

Somalia

EU Foreign and Defence Ministers will discuss Operation Atalanta and wider EU engagement on Somalia in separate sessions. On Atalanta, discussions will focus on the operation's six-monthly report. There may also be calls to make a decision on a proposed training mission for troops loyal to Somalia's Transitional Federal Government (TFG), and member states may be pressed to indicate what resources they are able to contribute.

We support the concept of the EU providing support for training of TFG security forces but planning needs to ensure that any mission would be workable and genuinely contribute to progress in Somalia. EU support must be co-ordinated and agreed with other international community actors in the region (UN, AU, US and bilateral efforts from member states) and the TFG through the Joint Security Committee mechanism and funds must be set aside with a mechanism in place to ensure that all trained troops are paid upon return to Somalia.

ESDP civilian capabilities

After an introduction from the presidency, Foreign Ministers will have a short discussion on how to bring about improvements in civilian capabilities for European Security and Defence Policy missions. The discussion will bring together a set of work streams pursued by the current presidency on civilian ESDP, including a revised framework for deploying civilians rapidly through the EU, a new concept for undertaking EU police substitution missions and a short report on member states' progress in developing the mechanisms to deploy civilians overseas.

We anticipate that the discussion will focus on the issue of finding more highly skilled civilians to deploy through ESDP missions, particularly the EU policing mission in Afghanistan. The Government have been supportive of the presidency's efforts to harness civilian capability from across Europe to deploy on ESDP missions because it is at the heart of the EU's ability to undertake more effective crisis management.

Belarus

Ministers may discuss recent developments and review whether progress has been sufficient to continue the suspension of the travel ban. Ministers may also look more widely at the EU's engagement, and assess what instruments it has at its disposal to bring about change. We will argue that there has not been sufficient progress to warrant lifting sanctions at this time, although we would be prepared to see the suspension of the travel ban continue for a defined period.

Joint Session of EU Foreign and Defence Ministers

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Operation Althea

Ministers will discuss Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), including the role of EUFOR Operation Althea. The Government support the ongoing presence of EUFOR in BiH. The presidency may also debrief member states on the current EU/US "Butmir" initiative: the Government fully support this effort to increase the pace of reform in BiH.

ESDP

Foreign and Defence Ministers will have an overarching discussion looking back at 10 years of European Security and Defence Policy and its future development. Considerations will be based around the Council conclusions on ESDP as well as a declaration marking its tenth anniversary. The conclusions are wide ranging and include: current ESDP missions and operations; cooperation with partners, including NATO, the UN and Third States; conflict prevention; gender and human rights; and both civil and military capability development. The Government have been supportive of the presidency's active engagement in this field.

Joint Session of EU Foreign and Development Ministers

Afghanistan and democracy support in EU external relations

Ministers will consider the EU's approach to democracy building in external relations, and will adopt conclusions, which we fully support. We particularly welcome the fact that they are a joint initiative (from the development and human rights working groups) and that they set out an Agenda for Action which could lead to real change in how the EU delivers support to democracy in its external relations. This is not about increased conditionality; rather it is about using what the EU already has more effectively and in a more coherent and coordinated manner.

The focus of the Foreign and Development Ministers' joint discussion on Afghanistan will be how the EU can work to support the new Afghan Government, ensuring that it is able to deliver on President Karzai's commitments to address corruption, governance and reintegration. Ministers will discuss how to fast track implementation of the Council Secretariat/Commission paper on enhancing EU engagement in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Government support the paper, and looks forward to seeing a worked up implementation plan.

Meeting of EU Defence Ministers

The European Defence Agency Steering Board will meet in Defence Ministers' formation on 17 November. As consensus has not yet been reached on a three year financial framework, on current plans Ministers will be presented with the agency's draft work plan and budget for 2010 only, though we continue to pursue the prospect of reaching an acceptable three-year agreement. Ministers will also be given updates on six European Defence Agency projects. For two of these projects, Ministers will be asked to approve political declarations: on European military airworthiness requirements and on a level playing field for the European defence equipment market. We support both of these initiatives.

Defence Ministers will discuss Somalia. Please refer to the Somalia section under External Relations above for further information.

Ministers will discuss the implications of the Lisbon Treaty for Defence Policy informally over lunch. These will be initial, wide ranging, discussions aimed at stimulating the debate over how the provisions of the treaty that affect defence might be implemented. There will be no loss of sovereign control over the UK's Armed Forces as a result of the Lisbon treaty.

Meeting of EU Development Ministers

Development Ministers will discuss EU delivery of Official Development Assistance (ODA) targets ahead of the 2010 collective commitment to 0.56 per cent. GNI. We expect strong language calling on member states to honour their targets, to set out timetables showing how they will do this, and calling on other donors to agree similarly ambitious commitments.

The Council will discuss how climate change considerations can be integrated into development discourse including a priority discussion on climate finance. conclusions will be adopted. While these do not form part of the official EU position for the UN framework convention on climate change conference in Copenhagen, we believe it is crucial that Development Ministers take this opportunity to discuss the relationship between ODA and climate finance and recognise that additional public finance over and above existing aid commitments is necessary.

Other items on the agenda include a Commission update on economic partnership agreements and a discussion of an operational framework on aid effectiveness and on policy Coherence for development.

HOME DEPARTMENT

DNA and Fingerprint Retention

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): I am announcing today proposals on a new retention framework for DNA and fingerprints to be introduced though primary legislation as soon as parliamentary time allows. I am also today publishing on the Home Office website and placing in the Library of the House the responses to the consultation exercise on earlier proposals published in May 2009. I will also be placing on the Home Office website at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-dna-database/ a review of the research carried out in this area.

The UK has been at the forefront of using DNA in the detection of crime for many years, and it has played a key role in the conviction of numerous individuals for the most serious of crimes over the years; some 832 matches to the national DNA database were made in cases of murder, manslaughter or rape in 2008-09 alone. The Government are determined that DNA and fingerprints should continue to play a key role in public protection and the prevention and detection of crime.

In December 2008 the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) judgment in the case of S and Marper found that the blanket retention of DNA profiles and fingerprints indefinitely where there had been no conviction represented a breach of article 8 of the European convention on human rights.

The Government undertook to give effect to the judgment and to amend domestic law accordingly. We published proposals in May 2009 in a consultation paper "Keeping the Right People on the DNA Database". The consultation period ended in August and some 500 responses, the majority from individuals, were received. We have considered those responses carefully before bringing forward the proposals below.

The retention of biometric data remain a sensitive issue. Such data help in the detection and conviction of criminals and may also be used for identification purposes outside the criminal justice context. There is less argument about the retention of biometric information in respect of those who have been convicted of a criminal offence than there is in respect of those who have been arrested and had their DNA and fingerprints taken but were not subsequently cautioned or convicted. Achieving the appropriate balance between privacy and public protection, in a way which satisfies the ECHR judgment, has been our objective.

Since the publication of the consultation paper we have sought to further the evidence base through additional research. The research lends support to the public protection case for retaining the DNA of those who have been arrested for but not convicted of criminal offences. It suggests that we can go some way to reduce the retention periods originally proposed without compromising public protection, indicating that the chance of re-arrest, following an arrest with no further action, of individuals with no previous convictions remains higher than the chance of arrest in the general population for six years following the initial arrest.

DNA Samples—The ECHR judgment highlighted the particular sensitivity of retaining DNA samples as distinct from the profiles taken from them that are held on the national DNA database (NDNAD). Although not required by the judgment, we continue to believe that there is scope for destroying samples not only of those arrested but not convicted and but also of those who have been convicted. We propose that samples should not be retained beyond a six-month maximum, which is needed to ensure satisfactory loading of the profile taken from the sample onto the NDNAD. We do, however, propose to bring forward a power for the police to take a further sample should the defence of an accused person challenge the authenticity of the results of the analysis of the destroyed sample.

Convicted Adults—We propose the indefinite retention of DNA profiles of convicted adults in line with the consultation paper. This would also apply to people who are given a caution, warning or reprimand.

Unconvicted Adults—In setting a proportionate retention period for the DNA profiles of unconvicted adults which does not compromise public protection, we have taken account of the improved evidence base and responses to the proposals in the original consultation paper. We propose a six-year retention period for the profiles of unconvicted adults, irrespective of the seriousness of the crime for which they were arrested. Although the ECHR suggested that the seriousness of the alleged offence should be a factor in determining what length of retention was proportionate, the best available evidence indicates that the type of offence a person is first arrested for is not a good indicator of the seriousness of offence he might subsequently be arrested for or convicted of in future. As the retention of the DNA of innocent people is not punitive, but rather a measure to facilitate the detection of future offences, the Government therefore conclude it is appropriate to have a single retention period.

Juveniles—While the evidence base does not support shorter retention periods for juveniles, we have, in setting a proportionate retention regime for juveniles, whether convicted or unconvicted, given weight to the comments in the ECHR judgment on juveniles, the United Nations convention on the rights of the child and the responses to the consultation paper.

Convicted Juveniles — We propose that the DNA profiles of convicted juveniles should be retained indefinitely for serious offences, and for five years for the first minor offence, with indefinite retention for a second conviction. This recognises that for many young people involvement in crime in their teenage years is often an isolated and minor incident. However, we also recognise that, for some young people, involvement in crime in their teenage years is a strong indicator of risk of further criminal activity into adulthood. We believe, therefore, that a limited retention period for a single conviction, with indefinite retention in the case of any further conviction, strikes the appropriate balance.

Unconvicted Juveniles — We propose that, where 16 and 17-year-olds are arrested for but not subsequently convicted of a serious offence, their DNA profile would be retained for six years (as for adults), taking account of the ages at which peak offending occurs. For all other juveniles, we propose a three-year retention period for DNA of those who have been arrested but not convicted whatever the offence for which they were arrested, and at whatever pre-18 age they were arrested at. This corrects a possible anomaly with the original proposal, identified by consultation respondents, that an individual arrested at age 10 might have had their DNA retained for eight years, whereas someone arrested at age 17 might have had their DNA retained for only year. It also provides an appropriately more lenient approach to juveniles who are arrested but not convicted, compared with those who do receive a conviction.

Fingerprints (Adult and Juveniles)— We propose that, in all cases, the same regime should apply to the retention of fingerprints as for DNA profiles. The ECHR judgment implied that fingerprints were a lesser intrusion of privacy, but we are not aware of evidence that suggests we should propose a different retention policy.

Additional Powers—In line with our aim to ensure that the right people are on the database our proposals in this area will, as we set out in the May consultation document, include giving the police the power to take fingerprints and non-intimate samples without consent from UK nationals or residents convicted of specified serious offences abroad at any time; to remove the existing statutory bar (in the Criminal Evidence (Amendment) Act 1997) on taking non-intimate samples from persons convicted of serious offences before 10 April 1995 who have been released from prison; and to give the police the power to take non-intimate samples and fingerprints post-arrest where the initial sample has proved inadequate for analysis even though a person is no longer in police detention.

Destruction of DNA and fingerprints profiles before the end of retention period—Currently, chief officers may consider the exceptional destruction of DNA and fingerprints under the exceptional case procedure. We propose to introduce greater transparency by setting out in statute more clearly defined criteria where deletion would be appropriate. This should bring greater clarity to the public and also the police.

Governance—It is important that, in addition to putting in place the proportionate regime for the retention of DNA and fingerprints set out above, we are also able to promote public confidence in the operation of that regime. We therefore propose to strengthen governance arrangements by placing the national DNA database strategy board on a statutory footing and by introducing to it a wider independent membership.

Terrorism and National Security—Material taken under any regime (including the Terrorism Act 2000) would be able to be retained beyond the six-year point where there is a case for doing so on the basis of a case-by-case review on national security grounds. This would require a review by a senior police officer every two years—although data would be deleted if it became clear between reviews that its retention would no longer be necessary. The policy for juveniles would be similar but would take account of the differential treatment proposed for juveniles more generally.

TRANSPORT

Third EU Directive on Driving Licences

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): The Department for Transport has today published a consultation document that outlines our proposals for implementing the third EU Directive on Driving Licences (Directive 2006/126/EC), adopted in December 2006.

Most features of the directive must be transposed into national law by mid-January 2011 and come into practical effect by mid-January 2013. In general, the directive harmonises definitions of vehicle sub-categories and rules on the duration of the validity of a licence; it introduces minimum standards for driving examiners and aims to ensure that no one can at any one time possess more than one licence issued by an EU state. Most of its provisions are consistent with current UK practice or with measures the Government anyway intended to take.

The main changes required by the directive to current practice in Great Britain are:

changes to the size categories of motorcycles, including a new medium-sized category;

an increase from 21 to 24 in the minimum age for motorcyclists gaining direct access to the most powerful motorbikes;

a new test or a training programme for younger motorcyclists wishing to progress in stages to the larger and more powerful machines (currently, unlimited access to all motorcycles is gained automatically after two years' experience on less powerful machines);

drivers of medium and large buses and lorries must renew their licences and demonstrate continuing medical fitness every five years (the present requirement in Britain is five-yearly renewal only after age 45);

a new category for car and light van drivers wishing to tow a medium-sized trailer, with qualification via a test or a training programme.

Major changes to entitlement, for example, those applying to motorcyclists and drivers towing trailers outlined above, will apply only to people first acquiring driving licences on or after 19 January 2013. Drivers and riders will keep any entitlement they already have on that date.

The consultation document explains in detail the changes involved. We intend to introduce them in a way which involves the minimum amount of departure from current practice, at the least possible cost.

The estimated cost of implementing the directive is £10 million for developing the necessary systems and annual operating costs of £2.1 million thereafter. These figures would rise to £14.9 million and £3.1 million respectively if the training options for motorcyclists and drivers towing trailers were taken up (all figures in 2009 prices).

Some further changes will be required in the future. For instance, all paper licences must be withdrawn by 2033.

The consultation period will run until 11 February 2010. Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Library of the House. Further copies are available on the DfT website at: www.dft.gov.uk.

Depending upon comments received and the Government's response, implementing regulations will be laid before Parliament in order to transpose the directive into law in Great Britain by the due date of January 2011. Separate arrangements apply in Northern Ireland, where driver licensing is a devolved matter.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 12 November 2009

TREASURY

Budget ECOFIN

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): Further to my written ministerial statement of 10 November, on the Economic and Financial Affairs Council (Budget ECOFIN): 19 November, I wish to inform the House that Budget ECOFIN has been rescheduled to 18 November, due to the announcement yesterday that an informal meeting of heads will now be held on 19 November. The Council's agenda remains unchanged.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

South Downs National Park

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): Further to my written ministerial statement of 31 March 2009, column 53WS, I am pleased to announce that I am today confirming the South Downs National Park (Designation) Order 2002 and the South Downs national park (Designation) Variation Order 2004, with modifications in both cases, thus creating the South Downs National Park, to take effect from 31 March 2010.

I will also be confirming the East Hampshire Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Revocation) Order 2002 and the Sussex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Revocation) Order 2002, which will take effect so as to coincide with the National Park coming into being. The South Downs national park as now indicated will cover over 99 per cent. of the land formerly designated as areas of outstanding natural beauty, and it would be inappropriate to have concurrent national landscape designations.

I have carefully considered the inspector's reports on the public inquiries and his latest report on the public hearing into the South Downs National Park (Designation) Order 2002, as varied, made by the Countryside Agency under the provisions of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

In line with the inspector's recommendations, I have decided that the area now proposed for designation meets the criteria for a national park, taking account of the modifications made, and that it should be managed by a national park authority, to be established under the provisions of the Environment Act 1995.

Full details of the South Downs national park boundary will be released in my decision letter today, a copy of which, together with an illustrative map, will appear on the DEFRA website: www.defra.gov.uk. Copies of the illustrative map and my decision letter will also be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

I propose to bring forward an order under the provisions of the Environment Act 1995 to create a national park authority. I expect the new authority to be established on 1 April 2010 and to take on its full range of statutory powers and functions from 1 April 2011.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Cyprus

The Minister for Europe (Chris Bryant): The UK remains an active supporter of the negotiations between the two Cypriot leaders aimed at reaching a comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem. The current round of talks offers the best opportunity yet to solve the Cyprus problem.

The UK has no role in the negotiations but, in order to support the efforts of the two leaders, the Government made a renewed land offer to the UN Good Offices Mission in Cyprus on 10 November 2009 to cede a portion of territory of the Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs). The extent of the land offer is the same as the offer made in 2003 (modified in 2004). My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced this on 11 November (see the text of his statement below).

The Government have offered to cede 45 square miles of SBA territory, just under 50 per cent. of the total, to a reunified Cyprus. This would make up 1.2 per cent. of the area of the reunited island. The SBAs would be able to function as normal within a reduced land area.

As in 2003, the offer is dependent on a successful outcome to the settlement negotiations. It will be up to the two leaders to decide how the land will be allocated and how to incorporate it into a settlement. The offer will become null and void should a comprehensive settlement not be approved by both communities in Cyprus. Legislation would be required to bring the transfer of territory into operation in the event of a comprehensive settlement being agreed.

The UN will include the land offer in future negotiations between the two leaders on the territory issue. It would not be appropriate, therefore, to comment further on the details of the land offer at this stage.

The Government will continue to support the two leaders in their search for a solution. We believe a settlement in Cyprus is vital towards securing peace and stability in the East Mediterranean. We urge all parties to seize this unique opportunity.

The Prime Minister's Statement

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said on 11 November: "I was very pleased to welcome President Christofias to London today and to have the opportunity to discuss the Cyprus problem with him. This is a critical time for the settlement talks.

President Christofias has shown enormous courage and determination in progressing discussions this far. I know that both Cypriot leaders are fully committed to finding a solution. And today I urged President Christofias to exploit this unique opportunity and move to resolve the issue to the benefit of all Cypriots.

I welcome the deeper co-operation between the UK and Cyprus, and reaffirm my commitment to work together on the basis of previous agreements.

It is important that the solution to the Cyprus problem is a Cypriot one—a solution by Cypriots for Cypriots.

Nevertheless, as a sign of support for the negotiations, I can confirm today that an offer has been made to the United Nations to make available just under 50 per cent. of the territory of the UK's Sovereign Base Areas to a unified Cyprus in the event of a solution. It will be up to the two leaders to negotiate what happens with this land. The Sovereign Base Areas would be able to function as normal within a reduced land area.

Today, my message to Cyprus' leaders and to their people is: you can make history. Be bold, be courageous. The UK will support you."

HEALTH

Anti-Psychotic Drugs (Dementia)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): The Government have today published an independent clinical report by Professor Sube Banerjee, into the prescribing of anti-psychotic drugs to people with dementia, together with a Government response to the report. The report was commissioned by the Government in recognition of widespread concern about the over-prescription of these drugs, and as part of the priority being given to improving care for people with dementia.

The Government welcome the report prepared by Professor Banerjee, and accept the conclusions and recommendations he has reached. The report acknowledges that these drugs are currently being over-prescribed, and contains a series of recommendations to the Government and others on action to address the current level of over-prescription.

A number of the report's recommendations are addressed to bodies outside the Department of Health. The report will therefore be widely disseminated by the Department to those with an interest, and we expect the findings and recommendations to be taken into account by all relevant organisations. The Government support the best practice guidance identified in the report, with quality and safety being the overriding principles. There will be a need for primary care trusts, local authorities and other bodies to work together to take forward the report's recommendations, particularly taking into account the interface between health and social care services.

The report from Professor Banerjee, and the Government's response to it, have both been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office. It can also be found at: www.dh.gov.uk/dementia.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Draft Immigration Bill

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): The Government have today published the draft Immigration Bill. Copies of which are available in the Vote Office.

The Bill consolidates and simplifies nearly 40 years of legislation and will ensure that Parliament and not case law determines immigration policy. This Government have created a dedicated UK Border Agency which combines customs and immigration powers in a strong new border force at the frontier. We now count migrants in and out of the country to ensure visa compliance. The points-based system allows us to raise or lower the bar for entry to ensure that migration continues to benefit the United Kingdom and avoid the negative impacts of sudden change.

We need to ensure that the law which underpins our work is in the best shape to support a fair and effective immigration system. Our legal framework needs to reflect the changes we have made and support continuing reform. It must enable the system to work more efficiently and effectively.

In taking forward our reforms we have already made specific changes to the law which were necessary to support the wide-ranging changes of policy, process and organisation we have put in place. We have also been clear that a wider reform and consolidation of the whole legal framework for immigration from the Immigration Act 1971 to the most recent Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009, is now needed, to build on those changes and ensure that the law as a whole is clear, consistent and comprehensible.

Immigration law is very often subject to legal challenge. The current legislation needs to be considered together with the case-law which interprets that legislation. We now have an important opportunity for Parliament to take stock of what the law is and decide the path forward, bringing clarity to an increasingly difficult area of law.

The draft Bill we are publishing today is the next step in a continuing process to meet the objective of a simpler legal framework—thereby providing a clear basis for the operation of our controls, and increasing our effectiveness in protecting our borders and removing those who do not have our permission to be here. As this document makes clear, we began that process two years ago as part of the reform of the then immigration and nationality directorate and have consulted widely on our developing proposals. We are setting out now what we have achieved so far and what further work remains to be done.

The draft Immigration Bill introduces new and far reaching concepts for the future immigration system strengthening our borders, simplifying immigration processes, and increasing our effectiveness at removing those who do not have permission to be in the UK:

Permission will become the basic authorisation given or refused by the UK Border Agency—in an embassy overseas, on arrival at a port, on application after entry. It replaces the outdated and overlapping concepts of leave to enter, leave to remain, entry clearance, the right to abode and exemption from control. It will be easier to use and understand—a migrant either has permission or does not.

Expulsion will replace the current separate procedures for deportation and administrative removal. All those expelled can be banned from returning—for a fixed period, or indefinitely. As now, expulsion will be the automatic consequence of specified prison sentences.

Immigration Bail will replace separate provision for temporary admission, temporary release and current bail procedures and provide a strong alternative to detention. It brings with it a broad menu of conditions to ensure contact and control of those awaiting decisions or expulsion. Those on immigration bail will remain liable to detention at any time.

The immigration appeals system has been simplified to improve its clarity and speed for those who need to use it while reducing the number of cases where repeated challenges create obstructions to enforcement. The Bill limits the grounds of appeal to whether the decision in question is in accordance with the immigration rules and otherwise in accordance with the law. It will not be possible to win an appeal on the grounds that discretion should have been exercised by the Secretary of State.

The draft Bill is accompanied by the Command Paper "Simplifying Immigration Law" which explains the approach which has been taken in the draft Bill and what further work there is to be done. This document also sets out the Government's intention to reform the route for those wishing to enter or stay in the UK on the basis of marriage or another long-term relationship. Decisions in the courts have weakened the current scheme for issuing certificates of approval before ceremonies take place; the courts have also found certain elements of the current scheme to be incompatible with human rights law. The scheme is no longer effective and it will be withdrawn: we will be bringing forward a remedial order to achieve this.

I am today also publishing a consultation on the future of the support provided while an application for protection is being concluded. The consultation focuses on how asylum support powers can be used to continue to ensure that genuine asylum seekers are not left destitute, while also enabling and encouraging those who are refused asylum and no longer have any right to be here to go home.

I have also made available today a consultation on the framework for the immigration rules which will be made under the new Bill. This consultation sets out proposals to make these rules simpler and easier to use.

Copies of both consultation documents have been placed in the House Library and in the Vote Office.

Petitions

Monday 9 November 2009

Petitions presented to the House but not read on the Floor

PRESENTED PETITIONS

Equitable Life (Gravesham)

The Petition of residents of the constituency of Gravesham, in the County of Kent region of the U.K. regarding the Government's response to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's reports on Equitable Life.

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Adam Holloway.]*

[P000418]

Equitable Life (Hampstead and Highgate)

The Petition of residents of the constituency of Hampstead and Highgate in the Northwest London region of the UK.

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Glenda Jackson.]*

[P000419]

OBSERVATIONS

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Flooding (Surrey)

The Petition of residents of Green Lane, Pembury Avenue, Worcester Park and others,

Declares that the flooding of Green Lane and adjacent roads on the 20 July 2007 by the Beverly Brook caused damage to property, cost and disruption for the residents.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls upon Her Majesty's Government to implement the flood protection scheme recommended by the Environment Agency in the coming year.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Paul Burstow, Official Report,* 15 July 2009; Vol. 496, c. 413.]

[P000394]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

The Government are aware of the flooding problem in the area around Green Lane, Worcester Park and in particular the 2007 flood. We understand this was due to a combination of fluvial flooding from the Beverley Brook and surface water runoff.

Since the floods of July 2007 the Environment Agency have carried out a pre-feasibility study looking at the options of reducing flood risk in the area. This report was completed in April 2008 and two copies were sent to the London Borough of Sutton.

The Environment Agency advise that three of the recommendations in the report have already been carried out; to clear all the drains along Green Lane, to keep the channel clear of debris, and to remove a redundant footbridge across the brook which was causing a potential restriction to flow.

The fourth recommendation was to carry out a feasibility study on a preferred option for a flood alleviation scheme in the area. The Agency have almost completed this study, which will then go to the Thames Region Project Assessment Board for approval. The preferred option is a combination of channel realignment, raised earth embankments, flood walls and flood storage areas. The scheme will also include a significant amount of environmental enhancements for the area. The Environment Agency's Project Assessment Board will consider the project in December and, if approval is given, detailed design will follow with a target start date for construction sometime during the 2010-11 financial year.

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Petition

Thursday 12 November 2009

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Sri Lanka

The Petition of constituents of Hon. Dr Vincent Cable MP for Twickenham,

Declares that following the end of hostilities in Sri Lanka as announced by President Mahinda Rajapakse, more than 280,000 Tamil civilians, including at least 50,000 children, remain detained indefinitely in cramped, squalid military run camps in the north of the island in breach of international law; further declares that there is a severe lack of medical and humanitarian aid for the needs of these wounded malnourished and severely traumatised war victims; further declares that with the current flooding, spread of diseases and the onset of the Monsoon rains the conditions in these already dilapidated camps will worsen drastically resulting in further deaths; further declares that the detained Tamil people are being held against their will, without any freedom of movement, with the intention of making these camps permanent; further declares that the traditional lands of these people are being colonised and illegally occupied by the armed forces; further declares that it is suspected that thousands of Tamils who are not accounted for are being detained incommunicado by the Sri Lankan armed forces; further declares that the perpetrators of war crimes and breaches of international law in Sri Lanka remain free from prosecution.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges HM Government to press for the implementation of the following: the United Nations, International Red Cross and voluntary agencies must be given full access to care for and protect the civilians in the camps, and then help them to return to their traditional homeland in the north and east; a list of all those still alive and in custody should be published, so that families can stop searching for loved ones who are dead; any who continue to be detained as alleged LTTE combatants must be treated in accordance with the provisions of international law, and urgently given access to legal representation; accountability processes must be established to ensure that international aid is not diverted to purposes other than those for which it was given; UN monitors must be given free access to all parts of the island; there must be a full UN investigation into war crimes committed during the war.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Dr. Cable.]*

[P000422]

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 9 November 2009

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

House of Commons: Energy

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what assessment the House of Commons Commission has made of the potential contribution of use of *(a)* micro-generation and *(b)* combined heat and power to improving the energy efficiency of the House of Commons part of the parliamentary estate; and if he will make a statement. [297486]

Nick Harvey: Studies have been undertaken to assess the potential for micro-generation and combined heat and power to improve energy efficiency across the estate. These include assessments of the potential for solar, wind and tidal power generation, borehole water cooling and combined heat, power and cooling for the Palace of Westminster. Solar, wind and tidal power generation for the Palace have, at this stage, been discounted due mainly to heritage restrictions and unfavourable local conditions. Combined heat, power and cooling is now being subjected to an in-depth feasibility study the outcome of which will determine a way forward.

Portcullis House operates a borehole water cooling system.

Additional opportunities are also being reviewed including connection of northern outbuildings to the Whitehall District Heating (combined heat and power) System and resolving the long-standing problems preventing the use of the existing combined heat and power plant in Norman Shaw South.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what appeals process may be invoked by farmers who face deductions from their single farm payments for *(a)* cattle passport contraventions, *(b)* breaches of the conditions of the Rural Stewardship Scheme and *(c)* other matters. [297807]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A farmer facing a deduction from their Single Payment Scheme claim may appeal against the decision to apply the reductions under the Single Payment Scheme Appeal Procedure. Full details of this procedure can be found on the RPA website

www.rpa.gov.uk

Animals: Transport

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking at EU level to seek to improve welfare standards for animals in transit in the EU. [298183]

Jim Fitzpatrick: At the 7 September EU Agriculture Council meeting, the Secretary of State expressed concern at the unnecessarily long journeys some animals undertake within Europe, particularly to slaughter. He urged the European Commission to give due consideration to shorter journey times and improved enforcement of welfare in transport rules when putting forward proposals to review the legislation. Commission proposals for an early review have not come forward this year as expected. It is not now known when new proposals may be drawn up although the Commission is obliged to review the Regulation by 2011.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what culling methods have been used in trials for culling tuberculosis-infected badgers; and if he will make a statement. [297028]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Gassing of badgers in setts with hydrogen cyanide gas was carried out between 1975-1982, when it was discontinued due to studies which showed it to be inhumane. Trapping and shooting has been the culling method used since, during the clean ring (1982-1986) and interim (1986-1997) control strategies and the Randomised Badger Culling Trial (1998-2005). Both tuberculosis-infected and uninfected badgers were removed in all of these operations. It was also the manner of culling used during the live test trial (1994-1996), which initially aimed to remove individual infected badgers that tested positive to a diagnostic test (known as the Brock Elisa test). However, due to the poor performance of the test in detecting infected badgers, the trial was suspended in 1996.

Business: Rural Areas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 on the Rural Development Programme for Business Support Scheme; and how many businesses received assistance from the scheme in each of those years. [298138]

Dan Norris: The information requested is detailed in the following table[1]:

	Spend (£ million)	*Number of businesses supported*
2007-08	13	[illegible],555
2008-09	12.5	8,058

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what grants his Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [292655]

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[1] These figures relate to activity supported under Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) business support measures as defined under Solutions for Business. RDPE is part of Solutions for Business, the Government's package of publicly funded business support designed to help companies start and grow.

Dan Norris: DEFRA does not hold this information centrally. The Department's grant programmes are administered by a wide range of delivery bodies. To collect the information centrally would incur disproportionate cost.

Commission for Rural Communities: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much grant in aid was provided by his Department to the Commission for Rural Communities in each of the last three years. [298262]

Dan Norris: The grant in aid provided by DEFRA to the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) in each of the last three financial years was as follows:

			£
	Revenue	*Capitalised*	*Total grant-in-aid*
2008-09	6,734,000	5,000	6,739,000
2007-08	8,902,000	7,000	8,909,000
2006-07	8,511,000	88,000	8,599,000

Source:
CRC Annual Report 2008-09 and CRC Annual Report 2007-08.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the measures in the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 on *(a)* the prevalence of pit bull terriers and similar breeds and *(b)* trends in the number of attacks on humans by dogs in the last 10 years. [297280]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No assessment has been made of the effect of the measures in the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 on the prevalence of pit bull terriers and similar breeds and trends in the number of attacks on humans by dogs in the last 10 years. However, following a spate of high profile dog attacks in 2007, DEFRA consulted police forces for their views on the current dangerous dog legislation. Responses indicated that more guidance should be made available to the police. In April of this year, DEFRA made available additional guidance on the law. We also provided the Association of Chief of Police Officers £20,000 towards the training of specialist dog legislation officers.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on overnight accommodation for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials while overseas in each of the last three years. [294685]

Dan Norris: From information held centrally, and from April 2006 to 20 October 2009, expenditure on accommodation for officials while overseas is:

	£
April 2006 to March 2007	20,938
April 2007 to March 2008	90,530
April 2008 to March 2009	92,715
April 2009 to 20 October 2009	48,571

Information on expenditure on overnight accommodation for Ministers is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively. The Cabinet Office produces an annual list of overseas travel over £500 undertaken by Ministers. The 2008-09 list was published on 16 July and can be viewed at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

Drinking Water: Fluoride

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average level of fluoride ions in parts per million was in water supplied to households by each water company in the latest period for which figures are available. [297805]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Water companies have provided sample results giving actual fluoride levels in treated water since 2004 to the Drinking Water Inspectorate. The average levels of fluoride in tap water samples taken in each year from 2004 to 2008 by company are provided below. These data are published on the Drinking Water Inspectorate's website.

	Average fluoride in parts per million				
Company	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Albion Water	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.03
Anglian Water	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.38	0.38
Bournemouth and West Hants Water	0.13	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.11
Bristol Water	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.13
Cambridge Water	0.14	0.11	0.12	0.13	0.13
Cholderton Water	0.09	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.07
Dwr Cymru Welsh Water	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.01
Dee Valley Water	0.06	0.10	0.07	0.05	0.06
Essex and Suffolk Water	0.29	0.26	0.27	0.27	0.25
Hartlepool Water	1.19	1.13	1.11	1.09	1.04
Northumbrian Water	0.31	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.48
Portsmouth Water	0.10	0.08	0.12	0.14	0.14
Scottish and Southern Energy[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.1
Severn Trent Water	0.35	0.38	0.34	0.36	0.36
South East Water	0.13	0.11	0.13	0.17	0.17
South Staffordshire Water	1.08	1.05	0.99	0.84	0.90
South West Water	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04
Southern Water	0.13	0.11	0.11	0.10	0.11
Sutton and East Surrey Water	0.13	0.11	0.13	0.10	0.13
Thames Water	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.16	0.16
United Utilities	0.08	0.08	0.10	0.08	0.06
Veolia Water Central	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.19	0.19
Veolia Water East	0.53	0.60	0.55	0.66	0.55
Veolia Water South East	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.11	0.12
Wessex Water	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	0.16
Yorkshire Water	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.07

[1] Scottish and Southern Energy was a new supplier in 2008

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of the sources of water used by water companies contain fluoride ions at a level above one part per million. [297806]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In England and Wales, there are a total of 1,692 water supply zones. 18 zones have on average fluoride level greater than one part per million of fluoride (based on data from 2004-08). Of these 18 zones, 10 receive water from artificial fluoridation schemes. Average levels in the remaining eight zones are the result of naturally occurring fluoride in the water sources.

The map indicates the average level of fluoride in water supply zones in England and Wales. The map is published on the Drinking Water Inspectorate's website and updated annually.

Flood Control

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much each local authority was allocated for flood defence maintenance and upgrading in each year since 1997. [298519]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Over the last decade the level of investment in flood defences has increased. In the 2010-11 financial year, a total of £780,000,000 is expected to be spent nationally, in comparison with £600,400,000 in 2007-08, and £310,000,000 in 1997-98.

Table 1 shows the breakdown of funding allocated to all local authorities from 1996-97 to 2007-08 for flood defences. It is not possible to provide details of what proportion of this is spent on flood defence maintenance and upgrading as this is at the discretion of the local authorities, and information is not supplied in local authority outturns.

Table 1: Funding allocated to local authorities 1996-97 to 2007-08

£ million

	Direct Funding to LAs	*LA Expenditure*[1]	*Capital Grant and SCE(R)*[2] *to LAs and IDBs*[3]	*Funding to EA for LAs and IDBs*[2]	*Capital Grant to LAs for coastal protection*	*Total*
1996-97	205.2	—	—	—	—	205.2
1997 98	223.3	—	—	—	—	223.3
1998-99	233.2	—	—	—	—	233.2
1999-2000	246.6	—	—	—	—	246.6
2000-01	262.7	—	—	—	—	262.7
2001-02	281.4	—	—	—	—	281.4
2002-03	299.4	—	—	—	—	299.4
2003-04	322.0	—	—	—	—	322.0
2004-05	—	80.3	46.9	—	—	127.2
2005-06	—	84.4	79.5	—	—	163.9
2006-07	—	84.5	—	12.7	65.7	162.9
2007-08	—	86.0	—	21.2	49.0	156.2

[1] Local authority expenditure is funded from a number of sources including central government grant, council tax and reserves. The primary source is Revenue Support Grant from the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG). More information is available from the CLG website, including the page on the revenue support grant settlements.

[2] Between 2004 and 2006 local authority projects were funded through a mix of direct capital grant and Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue) (SCE(R)). SCE(R) counted against DEFRA's Departmental Expenditure Limit for the year in which it was approved and supported local authority expenditure in that year. However, the funding resulting from SCE(R) was actually provided to the local authority over several years through Revenue Support Grant from the Department of Communities and Local Government. From 2006-07 onwards the mixture of grant and SCE(R) was replaced by a direct DEFRA grant.

[3] We are unable to split this funding further into the level of funding which went to local authorities and that which went to Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs).

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding was allocated to each local authority for flood defences in each year since 1997. [297273]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Over the last decade the level of investment in flood defences has increased. In the 2010-11 financial year, a total of £780,000,000 is expected to be spent nationally, in comparison with £600,400,000 in 2007-08, and £310,000,000 in 1997-98.

Table 1 shows the breakdown of funding allocated to all local authorities from 1996-97 to 2007-08 for flood defences. It is not possible to provide details of funding to each local authority individually.

Local authority allocation is much higher in 2003-04 and previous years because during this time the Environment Agency was largely funded through levies on local authorities, with DEFRA part-funding capital improvement projects and national initiatives such as public awareness campaigns and Catchment Flood Management Plans. Although local authorities still pay levies to the Environment Agency, this form of funding has largely been replaced by direct funding to the Environment Agency from DEFRA, through grant in aid which has increased from £358,600,00 in 2004-05 to £435,900,000 in 2007-08.

Table 1: Funding allocated to local authorities 1996-97 to 2007-08

£ million

	Direct funding to LAs	*LA expenditure*[1]	*Capital Grant and SCE(R)*[2] *to LAs and IDBs*[3]	*Funding to EA for LAs and IDBs*[2]	*Capital Grant to LAs for coastal protection*	*Total*
1996-97	205.2	—	—	—	—	205.2
1997-98	223.3	—	—	—	—	223.3
1998-99	233.2	—	—	—	—	233.2
1999-2000	246.6	—	—	—	—	246.6
2000-01	262.7	—	—	—	—	262.7

Table 1: Funding allocated to local authorities 1996-97 to 2007-08

£ million

	Direct funding to LAs	*LA expenditure*[1]	*Capital Grant and SCE(R)*[2] *to LAs and IDBs*[3]	*Funding to EA for LAs and IDBs*[2]	*Capital Grant to LAs for coastal protection*	*Total*
2001-02	281.4	—	—	—	—	281.4
2002-03	299.4	—	—	—	—	299.4
2003-04	322.0	—	—	—	—	322.0
2004-05	—	80.3	46.9	—	—	127.2
2005-06	—	84.4	79.5	—	—	163.9
2006-07	—	84.5	—	12.7	65.7	162.9
2007-08	—	86.0	—	21.2	49.0	156.2

[1] Local authority expenditure is funded from a number of sources including central Government grant, council tax and reserves. The primary source is Revenue Support Grant from the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). More information is available from the CLG website, including the page on the revenue support grant settlements.

[2] Between 2004 and 2006 local authority projects were funded through a mix of direct capital grant and Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue) (SCE(R)). SCE(R) counted against DEFRA's Departmental Expenditure Limit for the year in which it was approved and supported local authority expenditure in that year. However, the funding resulting from SCE(R) was actually provided to the local authority over several years through Revenue Support Grant from CLG. From 2006-07 onwards the mixture of grant and SCE(R) was replaced by a direct DEFRA grant.

[3] We are unable to split this funding further into the level of funding which went to local authorities and that which went to Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs).

Floods: West Midlands

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Government have provided towards the maintenance and upgrading of flood defences in *(a)* the West Midlands, *(b)* Herefordshire and *(c)* Worcestershire in each of the last five years. [298518]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In total, the Environment Agency Midlands Region has spent £114,260,000 designing and constructing new defences and maintaining existing ones in the West Midlands. Excluding Herefordshire and Worcestershire, £88,930,000 has been spent.

Major capital schemes at Burton, Cannock, Cheltenham and Kidderminster have reduced flood risk for 8,174 properties in the West Midlands. Significant additional funds have been provided to improve flood modelling, forecasting, warning and incident response.

In Herefordshire, £7,000,000 has been spent on a new flood defence scheme in Hereford and £6.1 million on maintaining existing flood defences. Expenditure in the area totals £13,100,000 in the last five years.

In Worcestershire, £2,660,000 has been spent completing the Bewdley defences and £870,000 on new defences at North Littleton. An estimated £8,700,000 has been spent maintaining flood defences, with total expenditure amounting to £12,230,000 over the last five years.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government plans to take to prevent wide scale flooding in *(a)* the West Midlands, *(b)* Herefordshire and *(c)* Worcestershire. [298520]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency has identified projects to reduce the risk of flooding for 11,109 houses in the West Midlands between 2010 and 2020. Excluding planned schemes in Worcestershire and Herefordshire, flood risk reduction is planned for 10,854 houses.

There will also be continued investment to improve flood modelling, mapping, forecasting and warning. The development and testing of flood response plans will also continue in partnership with local authorities and emergency services.

In Herefordshire, £150,000 has been identified to raise existing defences at Hampton Bishop. This is in addition to the £1,240,000 maintenance work identified for this year and £990,000 maintenance work identified for 2010-11.

In Worcestershire, £2,400,000 has been identified to protect 34 houses in Upton upon Severn in 2010-11. £1,000,000 (plus a contribution from Local Levy funding) has been identified to address problems in Childswickham and Wickhamford to protect 50 houses on the Badsy Brook. In Bewdley, £400,000 has been identified to protect 100 houses at the Quayside and in Worcester £100,000 has been identified to reduce flood risk to 71 houses on the Barbourne Brook.

Lighting: EU Law

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Wells (Mr. Heathcoat-Amory) of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 48-49W, on lighting, what the title is of the implementing measure agreed by EU member state experts in December 2008; if he will place in the Library a copy of the measure adopted by the European Parliament and the European Council; what steps have been taken to implement the measure in UK law; and if he will make a statement. [297689]

Dan Norris: EC Regulation 244/2009 implementing Directive 2005/32/EC with regard to ecodesign requirements for non-directional household lamps entered into force in April 2009. A copy will be placed in the Library.

As an EC regulation it required no transposition into UK law. Enforcement of this regulation lies within the responsibility of the Secretary of State in accordance with the Ecodesign for Energy-Using Products (Amendment) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009 No. 2560).

Local Government Services

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy is on participating in the Total Place initiative with local councils. [298438]

Dan Norris: Total Place is a joint initiative challenging central Government and local areas to work together to find better ways to achieve outcomes. Members of DEFRA's management board are representing central Government in the pilot projects in Birmingham, central Bedfordshire and Luton, and Kent.

Origin Marking: Israel

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 956-57W, on Israel: imports, (1) for what reason no reference was made to the planned public consultation on the labelling of produce from the occupied Palestinian territories in the letter dated 13 October 2009 to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak, ref: MC126368/MA; [297001]

(2) when he expects the draft voluntary guidance on origin labelling of produce from the occupied Palestinian territories to be placed on his Department's website. [297002]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA still intends to hold a consultation about the terms of the voluntary guidance referred to by my hon. Friend. The Government are still carefully considering the arrangements for consultation, and what guidance might be placed on DEFRA's website.

Palm Oil

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions the Cabinet discussed palm oil since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [298523]

Dan Norris: The minutes of Cabinet meetings are confidential. Ministers and Departments are working together to advance the sustainable production and consumption of palm oil, including through engagement with businesses, NGOs, the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil and other governments.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether his Department was represented at the most recent Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil meeting; and if he will make a statement; [298529]

(2) when he last discussed the use of sustainable palm oil with *(a)* Ministerial colleagues, *(b)* representatives of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, *(c)* representatives of the palm oil industry, *(d)* representatives of environmental non governmental organisations and *(e)* officials of other Government departments; and if he will make a statement; [298530]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to support the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil; and if he will make a statement. [298533]

Dan Norris: The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) annual meeting which took place from 2-4 November was attended by a Government official from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) posted to the South East Asia region. FCO officials work closely with counterparts in the UK to represent wider government interests and to keep policy makers informed of relevant developments abroad.

In the last month, Ministers from DEFRA and the Department of Energy and Climate Change met with UK based businesses that are members of the RSPO, and with international NGOs on forestry and palm oil. Engagement with these groups in the UK and internationally, including with other Governments, will continue as the UK Government work to support sustainable production and consumption of palm oil. This includes funding a project to help the RSPO secretariat strengthen and expand its certification.

Renewable Energy: Fuel Oil

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy is on the use of recovered fuel oil as a substitute for the use of fossil fuels. [298887]

Dan Norris: DEFRA's policies on waste oils and recovering energy from waste are set out in Waste Strategy for England 2007. This Department does not have a specific policy on the use of recovered fuel oil.

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of plants compliant with the Waste Incineration Directive can accept recycled fuel oil as a fuel. [298888]

Dan Norris: In England and Wales, six out of 126 plants regulated by the Environment Agency, or 5 per cent. of Waste Incineration Directive (WID) compliant Plants, are permitted to receive recovered fuel oil (RFO) for use as a fuel. The plants using RFO are: four sewage sludge incinerators, one clinical waste incinerator and one hazardous waste incinerator. RFO is used usually as a support fuel to maintain furnace temperatures if waste burning does not remain self-sufficient. It would be very unusual for any of these plants to continue to burn RFO for prolonged periods.

Water

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the improvements to *(a)* lakes, *(b)* estuaries and *(c)* coastal waters required by the draft Regional Management Plans; and if he will make a statement. [298153]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency submitted its proposed final River Basin Management Plans to DEFRA on 22 September and they are available on its website.

DEFRA is currently in the process of considering its proposals and the final plans are due to be published by 22 December 2009, as set out in the Water Framework Directive.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many first-class flights were taken by each Minister in his Department in 2008-09; and what the *(a)* origin, *(b)* destination and *(c)* cost was of each such flight. [298747]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not separately record journey information and expenditure on first class flights. It is Scotland Office policy not to use first class air travel. All air travel is undertaken by the most efficient and cost-effective way, in accordance with the Ministerial Code, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Postal Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland with which providers his Department held contracts to provide postal services *(a)* in 2007, *(b)* in 2008, *(c)* between 1 January 2009 and 1 July 2009 and *(d)* after 1 July 2009. [298766]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has contracts in place with Royal Mail for a range of postal services. These arrangements have been in place since 2007. The services are subject to annual renewal.

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department and its predecessor travelled by (i) car, (ii) rail and (iii) air on Government business in each year since 1997. [298547]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. The Office does not hold the information requested.

PRIME MINISTER

Ministers: Taxation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister whether a member of the Government is required to be a UK resident for tax purposes. [298156]

The Prime Minister: Ministers are required to handle their financial interests in accordance with the requirements of the "Ministerial Code".

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Homeworking

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff of his Department have been authorised to work from home in the last 12 months. [297737]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office enables staff to work from home when circumstances permit and with prior agreement from their local management. Details are not held centrally.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many applications for EU funding submitted in respect of projects based in Northern Ireland there were in each year since 2005; and how much EU funding was allocated to such projects in each such year; [298623]

(2) how much additional funding the EU allocated in respect of Northern Ireland other than its planned allocation in each financial year since 2005. [298690]

Paul Goggins: These are matters for the Northern Ireland Administration.

Firearms: Licensing

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many applications there have been for *(a)* new and *(b)* renewal of firearms certificates in Northern Ireland in each year since 2005. [297581]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many offences involving a knife in Northern Ireland resulted in convictions in each year since 2005. [298892]

Paul Goggins: The information is not available in the format requested as it is not possible to separately identify the number of convictions for certain offences, for example murder in which a knife was involved. It is only possible to provide conviction statistics for those offences which, in their definition, refer to an "offensive weapon" (of which knives will be one sub-category) or "article with blade or point".

These are:

armed with offensive weapon with intent to commit offence;

possessing offensive weapon in public place;

possessing article with blade or point in public place;

possessing article with blade or point on school premises;

possessing offensive weapon on school premises.

There were 209 such convictions in 2005 and 242 in 2006 (the latest year for which figures are available). Data are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Police

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the content was of *(a)* correspondence sent by and *(b)* other communications made by him to the First and Deputy First Ministers of the Northern Ireland Executive since 1 October 2009 on issues related to policing and justice in Northern Ireland; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such communication. [297605]

Mr. Woodward: The Secretary of State has continued to meet and engage regularly with the First and Deputy First Minister and other party leaders in Northern Ireland, on a range of financial and other matters relating to policing and justice. A copy of a letter sent by the Prime Minister on 21 October has been placed in the Library.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what is the planned number of police officers in Northern Ireland for 2010-11. [298180]

Paul Goggins: Decisions on force complement in the PSNI have been guided in recent years by Government policy (in line with the recommendation of the Patten report) that there should be an establishment of 7,500 regular officers. In coming years the Chief Constable will have greater flexibility around the number of officers in PSNI, and the establishment size will be an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member on this point, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many police officers there were in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [298181]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Police: Devolution

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what costed proposals he has received from the Northern Ireland Executive on the devolution of powers for criminal justice and policing to the Northern Ireland Assembly since 1 September 2009; and if he will publish the proposals. [297189]

Mr. Woodward: The Government have not received any costed proposals from the Northern Ireland Executive since 1 September 2009.

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he has agreed with the First and Deputy First Ministers of the Northern Ireland Executive a date for the proposed devolution of powers for criminal justice and policing matters to the Northern Ireland Assembly. [297606]

Paul Goggins: The Government believe that the time is right for the Northern Ireland Assembly to complete the process of devolution by requesting the transfer of policing and justice powers. However, the actual timing of devolution remains for the Assembly itself to decide upon, as set out in section 4 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. Progress continues to be made towards the completion of devolution and I believe that the financial package set out by the Prime Minister should enable the parties to move forward with the process.

Presbyterian Mutual Society

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the conclusions of the Financial Services Authority on the conduct of the Presbyterian Mutual Society in undertaking regulated activities. [297171]

Mr. Woodward: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) indicated in a statement on 9 April 2009 that the Presbyterian Mutual Society

> "...was conducting regulated activities without the necessary authorisation or exemption. However, on the basis of the information currently available to us, and applying the criteria in the Code for Crown Prosecutors, we have decided that it would not be right for us to take a case against any of those involved in running the PMS. However, we remain in touch with the administrator and, if further information comes to light relating to the issues we have investigated, we will look into it."

As the FSA is an independent non-governmental body given statutory powers to make such decisions by the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, the Government do not normally offer comment on the conclusions it reaches on individual investigations, but we shall take account of its report as we take forward our work on the Presbyterian Mutual Society.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assistance his Department has provided to the Prime Minister's working group on the Presbyterian Mutual Society. [297180]

Mr. Woodward: The Ministerial Working Group, chaired by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, expects to produce a draft report to the Prime Minister in the coming weeks. I have attended both meetings of this group which have taken place to date, and have discussed the matter with Treasury colleagues on a number of separate occasions. Officials from my Department continue to play a full part in the work being undertaken by the officials' working group, alongside officials from Her Majesty's Treasury and the relevant Northern Ireland Executive departments.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on steps to assist members of the Presbyterian Mutual Society. [297325]

Mr. Woodward: I have had a number of recent discussions with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who chairs the Ministerial Working Group set up by the Prime Minister to examine this issue.

Prostitution

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been *(a)* arrested, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* convicted on charges related to vice in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [297726]

Paul Goggins: Table 1 gives the number of persons arrested for vice-related offences for the calendar years 2007-09 (to date). Table 2 documents the number prosecuted and number subsequently convicted for the calendar years 2004-06 (the latest available year).

It is not possible to reconcile arrest data directly with prosecution and conviction data, as PSNI arrest data denote the offence as it has been initially recorded and this may differ from the offence for which a suspect is subsequently proceeded against.

Table 1: Number of persons arrested for vice-related offences 2007-09 (to date)

	Number of persons arrested
2007	8
2008	13
2009	9

Note:

Arrests relate to the offences 'brothel keeping', 'causing or inciting child prostitution or pornography', 'trafficking within the UK for sexual exploitation' and 'controlling prostitution for gain'.

Source:

PSNI

Table 2: Number prosecuted and convicted for vice-related offences 2004-06

	Prosecutions	*Convictions*
2004[1]	2	2
2005[2]	3	3
2006	0	0

[1] One prosecution was for the offence 'brothel keeping' and one for prostitute-soliciting'.

[2] All three prosecutions were for the offence of 'brothel keeping'.

Note:

Prosecutions and convictions are collated on the principal offence rule: so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Source:

NIO

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff in the Government Equalities Office were employed on the management of freedom of information requests submitted to her Department in each year since 2005; and how much that office spent on the management of such requests in each such year. [299132]

Michael Jabez Foster: It is not possible to calculate exact costs as management of freedom of information requests forms only part of the roles of:

one admin officer

one senior executive officer

one corporate services manager

policy and other staff dealing with specific requests

a small part of the time of one legal adviser.

Departmental Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff of the Government Equalities Office have been authorised to work from home in the last 12 months. [297733]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) operates a flexible working policy which is available to all staff. Staff are allowed to work from home, subject to line management agreement based on business need, however central records on the amount of time worked from home are not held.

Departmental Travel

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much her Office spent on *(a)* car hire, *(b)* train travel, *(c)* air travel, *(d)* hotels and *(e)* restaurant meals for (i) Ministers and (ii) staff in her Office since its inception. [299970]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office was created on 12 October 2007. Since then, the following totals have been incurred on travel related expenditure:

		£
	Ministers	*GEO staff*
2007-08 (12 October 2007-31 March 2008)		
Car hire	6,343	—
Train travel	—	1,768
Eurostar	—	167
Air travel	—	5,785
Hotels/meals[1]	—	4,817
Total	6,343	12,537
2008-09		
Car hire	97,241	53
Train travel	546	20,189
Eurostar	453	4,939
Air travel	378	18,292
Hotels/meals[1]	900	7,334
Total	99,518	50,807
2009-10[1]		
Car hire	2,710	456
Train travel	—	8,617
Eurostar	—	2,522
Air travel	6,945	6,976
Hotels/meals[1]	910	4,329
Total	10,565	22,900

[1] We are unable to separate the figures for hotel charges, meals and incidentals as these are accounted for collectively using the Department's on-line travel and subsistence claiming system or via a government procurement (Visa) card.

Note:

Figures current to 31 August 2009.

OLYMPICS

Legacy: North-West

3. **Andrew Miller:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the legacy for the North West of the London 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [298003]

Tessa Jowell: The North West will gain from sporting, commercial and other opportunities created by the London 2012 Games.

For example, Old Trafford will host rounds of the football competition in 2012 and the Australian Olympic swimming team, the Thailand Olympic and Paralympic team and the Oceania National Olympic Committees have all signed agreements to base their pre-Games training camps in the North West. 13 cultural projects in the North West have also been awarded the Inspire Mark and 5,018 businesses in the North West are registered on CompeteFor.

Construction Programme

Ann Winterton: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent progress has been made on the London 2012 Olympics construction programme. [298002]

Tessa Jowell: Excellent progress is being made on the Olympic Delivery Authority's construction programme, both at the Olympic Park in East London, and other venues around the country. The Queen visited the site last week to witness the transformation.

Order books are being filled all around the country, with 98 per cent. of construction contracts having gone to UK companies.

The programme is on time and within budget.

Contracts: Hertfordshire

Anne Main: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many contracts related to the London 2012 Olympics have been awarded to businesses and organisation in *(a)* St Albans constituency and *(b)* Hertfordshire; and what the monetary value of such contracts is. [297532]

Tessa Jowell: To the end of September 2009, 32 suppliers registered in Hertfordshire had been awarded contracts by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), five of these businesses were registered in St. Albans. The total spend to date for these contracts stands at £54,225,666.

These figures do not include those contracts awarded to sub-contractors based in Hertfordshire. Many other companies will have won work from 2012 projects further down the supply chain. The ODA has this month produced a map showing how companies across the UK are helping to deliver the games, details of which are available on the London 2012 website.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many helplines the Government Olympic Executive operates; how much revenue it has received from the operation of such helplines in each of the last three years; if she will consider the merits of securing the accreditation of such helplines to The Helplines Association's quality standard; and if she will make a statement. [298395]

Tessa Jowell: The Government Olympic Executive does not operate any helplines.

Members: Correspondence

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Olympics when she plans to reply to Question 291993 on acquisition of cut Christmas trees, tabled on 9 October 2009. [297487]

Tessa Jowell: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 4 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 994W.

Olympic and Paralympic Games 2012

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the reasons are for the increase in the estimated cost to the public purse of hosting the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games between *(a)* March 2007 and *(b)* July 2009. [284496]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 6 July 2009]*: The forecast final cost of the programme remains within the £9.325 billion budget announced in March 2007.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 29 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 517-18W, on the Olympic Games: construction, what the value was of the contracts awarded to firms in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Northern Ireland, *(d)* England and *(e)* elsewhere. [297969]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority is compiling the requested information. I will write to the hon. Member upon receipt, and I will place a copy in the Libraries of both Houses.

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what proportion of contracts for the London 2012 Olympics have been awarded to companies based outside London; and if she will make a statement. [298063]

Tessa Jowell: To date the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has directly awarded contracts to over 1,000 suppliers in the UK, 46 per cent. of these are businesses registered outside of London. Many more businesses are helping to deliver the Games in the supply chains of the ODA's contractors: the ODA has this month produced a map showing how companies across the UK are contributing to the Games, details of which are available on the London 2012 website. Businesses interested in supplying the Games should register on CompeteFor, the electronic brokerage service for Games-related contracts, to date over 4,300 contracts have been made accessible in this way.

Olympic Games 2012: Countries

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her most recent estimate is of the number of nations that will compete in the London 2012 *(a)* Olympic and *(b)* Paralympic Games. [296820]

Tessa Jowell: Today there are 205 National Olympic Committees (NOC). 204 NOCs were represented at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, which is the highest number of NOCs ever to take part in an Olympic Games.

There are currently 162 National Paralympic Committees (NPC). 146 nations took part in the 2008 Beijing Paralympics.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her most recent estimate is of the contribution from the Exchequer to the costs of the London 2012 Olympics. [297883]

Tessa Jowell: Chapter 20 of the comprehensive spending review (CSR) White Paper, published on 9 October 2007, announced total grant in aid (within the £9.325 billion) from Government of £1,559/£1,104/£1,050 million in 2008-09 to 2010-11. The distribution of the remaining Government contribution (within the £9.325 billion) for 2011-12 to 2013-14 will be confirmed in subsequent spending reviews. The balance of the funding requirement will be met, as announced in March 2007, by contributions from the Mayor of London (GLA and LDA); and from the Lottery.

Details of progress across the Olympic programme, and sources of funding, can be found in the July 2009 Quarterly Economic Report on the games. The next Quarterly Economic Report on the games will be published later this month.

Olympic Games 2012: Land

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her most recent estimate is of the land acquisition and disturbance compensation costs incurred by the London Development Agency on the Olympic Park. [296543]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 29 October 2009]:* The latest London Development Agency (LDA) land commitments budget was discussed by the LDA Board on 16 September 2009. I am arranging for copies of the minutes of that meeting to be deposited in the House Libraries. The minutes can also be found on the LDA website:

http://www.lda.gov.uk/upload/pdf/Public_Item_02_1_Olympic_Land_commitments_and_revised_budget_2009_10.pdf

The funding for LDA Olympic land commitments is not part of the £9.325 billion public sector funding package for the games but has always been self-funded expenditure.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Inbound Tourists

16. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of inbound tourists in the latest period for which figures are available. [298026]

Margaret Hodge: In the three months to August 2009 (the latest period for which figures are available), there were 7.7 million visits to the UK, an increase of 3 per cent. when compared with the previous three months, and a decrease of 5 per cent. when compared with the three months to August 2008.

Expenditure by overseas visitors in the three months to August 2009 was £4.1 billion which increased by 1 per cent. when compared with the previous three months and increased by 2 per cent. when compared with the three months to August 2008.

Regional Television News

17. **Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the level of provision of regional television news programmes. [298027]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government assessed the level and importance of regional news on television during the development of the Digital Britain White Paper published in June 2009, which was informed by Ofcom's second public broadcasting review and statement on short term regulatory decisions. The Government propose to deliver independently funded news consortia on a pilot basis to start with to help secure the plurality of nations; local and regional news.

Library Services

18. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to publish his Department's report on the modernisation of library services. [298028]

Margaret Hodge: We plan to publish the library report as a consultation document very soon. We are grateful for the work of the Library Review Project Board and the Advisory Council on Libraries, which provides a good foundation for further discussion of key issues and concerns. I now want to consult on these issues, with a view to publishing a response and proposals in the spring.

BBC Trust

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on the future of the BBC Trust; and if he will make a statement. [298022]

Mr. Bradshaw: I regularly receive representations on all aspects of the BBC, including the BBC Trust. I have already said that I have concerns about the Corporation's regulatory structure and I am clear that this must be a key issue for the next Charter review.

Arts Council of England: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many page hits have been recorded by the *(a)* Arts Council England and *(b)* British Film Council website in each year since their creation. [298047]

Margaret Hodge: The information is as follows:

(a) Arts Council England have supplied the data below. The figures from the 2009 server log are not yet available.

	Hits per year
2004	25,961,462
2005	40,205,728
2006	47,773,873
2007	54,871,141
2008	96,473,086

(b) The UK Film Council have supplied the data below. They undertook a major re-development of their website with a new service provider which went live in January 2008. They have not kept statistics related to the former website and service provider prior to this date.

	Hits per year
2008	26,964,428
2009 (to date)	23,553,089

Arts: Finance

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to maintain levels of funding for the arts during the recession. [298814]

Margaret Hodge: Government continue to provide strong financial support to the arts throughout the recession. We are investing nearly £450 million in the arts this year through Arts Council England. This represents a real-terms increase of 83 per cent. since 1997. This will rise to £463 million in 2010-11.

Arts Council England have made a swift and innovative response to the economic situation by introducing the sustain scheme. This is providing an additional £40 million to enable arts organisations to continue to provide high quality artistic programmes despite the current economic situation.

Arts: Young People

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on arts bursary awards for people aged under 25 in each of the last five years. [296492]

Margaret Hodge: The Government support awards for young people through the Arts Council and their Art Award scheme. This scheme enables young people aged 11 to 25 to develop their creative skills. 22,000 young people have gained an Art Award since the qualification began in 2005. The scheme is growing quickly in popularity with almost 13,000 awards gained in this calendar year.

Since its inception in 2005, Arts Council England has spent the following on Art Awards:

Financial year	*Total (£)*
2005-06	350,000
2006-07	550,000
2007-08	530,000
2008-09	700,000
2009-10	772,000

Broadband

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of households in the United Kingdom have access to high-speed broadband internet. [293417]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

While there is currently no overall percentage figure on the number of households in the United Kingdom that have access to high speed broadband internet, approximately 12 million households have connection to fast broadband via Virgin Media's cable network. This covers approximately 50 per cent. of all UK households. BT announced its plans to invest £1.5 billion in a fibre-based super-fast broadband network. They plan to have the service available to one million households by March 2010 and the service should be available to around 40 per cent. of the UK's homes and businesses by 2012. They are currently rolling out super-fast broadband to 10,000 homes in Ebbsfleet and have a 40Mbps service pilot scheme to 15,000 homes in Muswell Hill and Whitchurch.

Other high speed broadband developments include H20's Fibrecity scheme to 88,000 homes in Bournemouth and Dundee and Redstone's scheme serving 5,000 homes in Belfast.

Correspondence Management Unit

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on employing an independent consultant to review and report on the Correspondence Management Unit in his Department in September 2009. [298159]

Mr. Bradshaw: Over the summer the Department commissioned an independent consultant to look into a range of issues across the Department including the handling of correspondence.

The cost of this consultancy, at a discounted Government rate, was £9,639.60.

Culture

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on the UK City of Culture programme in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [297259]

Margaret Hodge: In the last 12 months, my Department has spent £55,690 on the UK City of Culture programme. The programme is intended to encourage bidding cities to work within existing resources and budgets. DCMS funding has therefore been used to support bidding cities so to minimise their local expenditure. This money has been spent on paying expert assessors who work with bidding cities and on hosting events where cities can learn from the success of Liverpool as the European Capital of Culture.

Licensing Act 2003

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what timetable he has set for a public consultation on exemptions from the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 for low risk live entertainment. [298884]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We hope to publish the consultation this year and will consult for the usual 12-week period.

Lithuania

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what official visits he has made to the European Capital of Culture in 2009; and at what cost to the public purse. [298239]

Mr. Bradshaw: None.

National Heritage: Expenditure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on its aims related to heritage *(a)* in cash terms, *(b)* in real terms and *(c)* as a percentage of its annual expenditure in each year since 1997. [295337]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 26 October 2009]*: The table was calculated from published outturn figures:

FY ending 31 March	*Actual cost (£ million)*	*Cost in real terms[1] (£ million)*	*Percentage of annual DCMS voted spend excluding BBC*
1997-98	398.1	517.8	45
1998-99	377.9	481.3	43
1999-2000	390.4	487.7	41
2000-01	404.3	498.4	41
2001-02	428.9	517.2	40
2002-03	452.8	529.0	39
2003-04	483.4	549.3	27
2004-05	505.9	559.3	37
2005-06	528.9	574.0	36
2006-07	568.1	598.9	34
2007-08	614.9	629.9	33
2008-09	640.8	640.8	29

[1] Costs in 2008-09 prices. Calculated using GDP deflators

The table shows that spend on heritage matters has increased by more than £120 million in real terms since 1997. This spend is primarily attributable to—Churches Conservation Trust, CABE, Chatham Historic Dockyard, Greenwich Naval College, The Royal Parks, Occupied Royal Palaces, Historic Royal Palaces, Listed Places of Worship, Memorial Grant Scheme, National Heritage Memorial Fund, English Heritage, Museums and Galleries and Renaissance in the Regions.

It should be noted that the percentage decrease in spend on Heritage as a proportion of DCMS voted spend in 2003-04 reflects one-off additional funding for the transfer of pension costs across DCMS sectors. As an administrative cost, this is included in the total spend but excluded from the proportion of that total considered here as 'aim-related' Heritage expenditure.

The above data have been drawn from the published DCMS Appropriation accounts and resource accounts, the accounts are audited by NAO.

Ofcom: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many page hits have been recorded by the Ofcom website in each year since its creation. [298846]

Margaret Hodge: The running and maintenance of Ofcom's website is the responsibility of Ofcom, who operates independently of Government.

I have therefore asked Ofcom's chief executive to consider the question raised by the hon. Member and to write to him direct.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Purton Hulks

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with English Heritage on the designation of the Purton Hulks site as an ancient monument since July 2009; and if he will make a statement. [293891]

Margaret Hodge: I discussed the protection and conservation of the Purton Hulks at a meeting with Baroness Andrews and Simon Thurley of English Heritage on 13 October. I have also visited the site where the Friends of Purton presented me with a petition and previous correspondence.

English Heritage is still gathering information to help determine the significance of the Purton Hulks in a national context, and to inform its advice to the Secretary of State on their suitability for designation as a scheduled monument. It is also working with Natural England to explore how natural heritage designations applying to the site, including its status as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, might best take account of its cultural value.

A further option would be for the local authority to purchase the land under a compulsory purchase order.

RMS Titanic

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to mark the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic. [297661]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 3 November 2009]*: The Department is aware of the public interest in the 2012 centenary of the sinking of RMS Titanic. Some national and regional museums and heritage centres have plans to mark the centenary, including the National Maritime Museum. Southampton, where RMS Titanic embarked, and Belfast, where she was built, also plan to mark the centenary. In 2008 the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded a grant of £50,000 to Northern Ireland Science Park (NISP) for a project based at the Titanic's Dock and Pump-House in Belfast and also awarded a grant of £174,500 to National Museums Northern Ireland (Ulster Folk and Transport Museum)—towards the development of its collection "Titanic: Built in Belfast".

Sports: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many page hits have been recorded by the *(a)* Sports England, *(b)* UK Sport, *(c)* Football Foundation and *(d)* Youth Sport Trust website in each year since their creation. [298848]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is as follows:

(a) Sport England *(b)* UK Sport and *(c)* the Football Foundation have advised that they hold data on the annual number of page hits to each of their websites for the following years, as shown in the table:

	Annual number of page hits			
Organisation	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Sport England	—	5,001,019	7,343,919	[1]5,065,702
UK Sport	[2]1,147,092	3,547,455	4,968,305	[3]5,183,788

Organisation	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
				Annual number of page hits
The Football Foundation	—	6,757,949	[4]24,888,355	[5]38,613,738

[1] Figures relevant to end October 2009.

[2] Figures represent data captured between July and December 2006.

[3] Figures represent data captured up to 5 November 2009.

[4] Figures for the Football Foundation website increased dramatically when in September 2007 the new website was launched to allow applicants to apply for grants on-line.

[5] These figures are predicted based on data capture to date.

(d) The Youth Sport Trust have advised that from 2007 they introduced a new data capture system and began to record numbers of visitors to its site, rather than page hits.

Organisation	*2006*[1]	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
				Annual number of visitors
The Youth Sport Trust	525,767	362,183	609,426	518,844

[1] Figures for 2006 represent page hits.

Television: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on the reception of analogue television broadcasts in North Yorkshire. [298186]

Mr. Bradshaw: The hon. Member for Vale of York wrote to my predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Leigh (Andy Burnham), in April this year, on behalf of a constituent, concerning the BBC digital reception in York.

I am not aware of any other recent representations on the reception of analogue television broadcasts in North Yorkshire.

VisitBritain: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Visit Britain has *(a)* taken in fees for and *(b)* spent on administering each of its quality assessment schemes for accommodation businesses in each of the last five years; and what information his Department has obtained on the additional revenue generated for businesses participating in each of the schemes. [296455]

Margaret Hodge: The Quality Schemes are now the responsibility of VisitEngland. VisitEngland was established as a separate body on 1 April 2009 and before that date the quality schemes were the responsibility of VisitBritain.

The income and costs figures for the Quality Schemes are as follows:

2005-06—Income £2,681,000, Costs £3,988,000 (Actual)

2006-07—Income £3,976,000, Costs £3,963,000 (Actual)

2007-08—Income £4,410,000, Costs £4,254,000 (Actual)

2008-09—Income £5,003,000, Costs £4,898,000 (Actual)

2009-10—Income £5,300,000, Costs £5,200,000 (Budget)

VisitEngland have made no estimate of the additional revenue generated for businesses participating in the schemes.

The aim of the schemes is to increase the quality of accommodation in England and thus the profitability and strength of the tourism sector.

World Heritage Sites

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support his Department has given to young people's activity connected with UK world heritage sites in the last month; and at what cost to the public purse. [297250]

Margaret Hodge: My Department provided £6,000 for a conference to promote the UK-wide World Heritage Site education programme conference—'Making Sense of Our Sites' and a further one-day Youth Summit held at the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site in May this year. This education programme aims to engage young people with their World Heritage Site.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what official visits he has made to each UK world heritage site in the last 12 months. [298466]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have not visited a UK World Heritage Site in an official capacity since my appointment, but look forward to doing so at the first available opportunity. My predecessor visited the Tower of London World Heritage Site in November last year.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date the requirement for fresh submissions in asylum cases to be dealt with by personal interview in Liverpool will come into force; and whether financial assistance will be provided to asylum seekers for travel to Liverpool for this purpose. [296183]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 27 October 2009]:* On 14 October, we introduced a requirement for failed asylum seekers to make further submissions about their case in person, bringing the process in line with the process for making initial applications.

Failed asylum seekers who claimed asylum before 5 March 2007 are required to make any further submissions by appointment and in person at Liverpool Further Submissions Unit. We have been making appointments from 14 October.

Failed asylum seekers who claimed asylum on or after 5 March 2007 will be required to make further submissions in person at a specified reporting centre in their region.

We will not make available travel expenses for people to travel to Liverpool to make further submissions as we do not do so for initial applications.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been granted asylum in the UK in each of the last five years. [296245]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the number of persons granted asylum at the initial decision stage of their application is available from table 2.2 of the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2008. This information excludes persons granted humanitarian protection and discretionary leave, the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.

Information on asylum are published annually and quarterly. Annual statistics for 2008 are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.g[illegible]uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of persons granted asylum in the UK in each of the last five years were of each nationality. [296290]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides the proportion of persons granted asylum at the initial decision stage of their application, as a proportion of all persons granted asylum at their initial stage. This information excludes persons granted humanitarian protection and discretionary leave, the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Annual statistics for 2008 are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Asylum initial decisions: Cases[1] [2] recognised as refugees and granted asylum, excluding dependants, by country of nationality, 2004 to 2008 as a proportion of total cases granted asylum

	Percentage of total asylum grants, principal applicants				
Country of nationality	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[3]
Albania	—	0	—	0	—
Macedonia	—	—	—	—	—
Moldova	0	0	—	—	0
Russia	1	1	1	0	0
Serbia and Montenegro[4]	1	0	0	n/a	n/a
Turkey	5	2	1	1	0
Ukraine	0	—	—	—	—
EU Accession States[5]	0	—	—	—	—
Other Former USSR	2	1	1	1	1
Other Europe[4]	0	0	0	0	0
Total Europe	10	5	2	2	2
Colombia	0	0	0	0	0
Ecuador	—	0	—	—	—
Jamaica	0	0	0	0	0
Other Americas	0	0	0	—	0
Total Americas	1	1	0	0	0
Algeria	1	0	0	0	0
Angola	1	0	0	1	0
Burundi	1	1	0	0	0
Cameroon	1	1	1	1	0
Congo	1	0	0	0	—
Dem. Rep. of Congo	4	3	2	2	1
Eritrea	5	29	36	31	31
Ethiopia	1	1	1	1	0
Gambia	—	0	0	0	0
Ghana	0	0	—	—	—
Ivory Coast	0	1	0	0	[illegible]
Kenya	0	0	—	0	0
Liberia	0	0	0	0	—
Libya	1	1	0	0	0
Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0
Rwanda	1	—	0	0	0
Sierra Leone	0	0	—	0	0
Somalia	29	34	30	23	13
Sudan	8	3	1	2	1
Tanzania	0	0	—	—	—
Uganda	2	1	0	0	0
Zimbabwe	14	4	6	7	14
Other Africa	1	1	0	1	1
Total Africa	71	80	80	69	64
Iran	5	4	4	6	6
Iraq	1	0	1	4	5
Syria	1	1	1	1	0
Other Middle East	1	1	3	3	2
Total Middle East	7	6	9	13	14
Afghanistan	2	2	2	2	3
Bangladesh	—	0	0	0	0
China (inc. Taiwan)	1	1	1	2	2
India	0	0	—	0	0
Pakistan	4	2	2	2	2
Sri Lanka	1	0	0	2	4
Vietnam	0	0	0	0	—
Other Asia and Oceania	2	2	2	7	8
Total Asia and Oceania	10	7	7	15	18
Other and not known	0	2	1	1	2
Grand total (percentage)	100	100	100	100	100

Asylum initial decisions: Cases[1] [2] recognised as refugees and granted asylum, excluding dependants, by country of nationality, 2004 to 2008 as a proportion of total cases granted asylum

n/a = Not applicable

[1] Percentages rounded to the nearest 1 ((—) = 0 per cent., (0) = less than 0.5 per cent., but greater than 0 per cent.) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding. Figures rounded to the nearest five.

[2] Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period and exclude the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions. Figures exclude cases granted humanitarian protection and discretionary leave.

[3] Provisional figures

[4] Serbia (inc. Kosovo) and Montenegro counted under "Other Europe" from 2007.

[5] EU Accession States: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. In 1999 and 2000 it excludes Malta but includes Cyprus (Northern part of).

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers were subject to age assessment procedures in each of the last five years. [297611]

Mr. Woolas: The number of individuals whose age was officially recorded as "disputed" in the annual UK asylum statistics was as follows:

	Age disputed cases
2004	2,345
2005	2,425
2006	2,270
2007	1,915
2008	1,400

These figures will not include all those whose age has been assessed, as we do not record initial "visual" assessments on arrival, either by UKBA staff or social workers assisting them; nor do we record when local authorities conduct age assessments for their own purposes.

Asylum: Children

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children from each ethnic group in each local authority area were being looked after by local authorities on the latest date for which figures are available. [297490]

Mr. Woolas: Data on the specific ethnic group of asylum seeking children are not held centrally.

Asylum: Liverpool

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 13, on asylum applications, whether he plans to end the provision of facilities in Liverpool for face-to-face interviews in respect of applications for asylum. [297458]

Mr. Woolas: With effect from 14 October 2009 Liverpool was re-designated to accept further submissions in person and with face-to-face interviews but will no longer accept initial applications for asylum or conduct face to face screening interviews. There is a transitional arrangement until March 2010, to screen the initial asylum applications for a small number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

Borders: Personal Records

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts let by his Department in the last 12 months were related to the e-borders programme; and what the monetary value of each such contract was. [297619]

Mr. Woolas: In the last 12 months, there have been no new contracts let which relate to the e-Borders programme.

Closed Circuit Television

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the proportion of publicly-owned closed circuit television systems which comply with *(a)* relevant British Standards Institute standards and *(b)* provide images of a quality suitable for use as evidence in court. [297147]

Mr. Alan Campbell: None. Compliance with the relevant British Standards Institute standards is a matter for local installers and users of CCTV. The National CCTV Strategy focuses on standards, better training, improved partnership working and more co-ordinated use of technology. We will work with partners at national and local level to ensure that best use is made of CCTV to help prevent and detect crime and to help bring offenders to justice.

Community Resolutions

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many community resolutions have been issued in *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* England since the inception of the scheme. [296818]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not collected centrally. Community resolutions are not an identified method of detection in the police recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on advertising *(a)* in the printed press, *(b)* on television and *(c)* on radio in each of the last three years. [295207]

Mr. Woolas: The following table outlines Home Office spend on advertising in *(a)* the printed press, *(b)* on television and *(c)* on radio in each of the last three years.

During this time, the advertising addressed the important issues of acquisitive crime reduction, alcohol harm, child protection on the internet, community safety, domestic violence, drug misuse, human trafficking, immigration, knife crime, police community support officers and immigration.

This advertising spend amounts to less than 1 per cent. of the Home Office overall budget. In order to match resources to priorities we focus on where we will get the most impact and value and where we will deliver the greatest return on investment.

Recruitment advertising is not done centrally but carried out across the Department and hence spend could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

			£
Media	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Press	1,688,416	1,634,210	2,700,226
Television	5,412,325	2,434,300	4,756,502
Radio	3,045,302	2,383,202	1,864,940

Departmental Correspondence

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make it his Department's policy to use two-sided printing for its correspondence; and whether he has made an estimate of the potential savings in respect of paper use consequent on the implementation of such a policy. [291880]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office is working to reduce all forms of waste, in line with the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets. Accordingly a wide range of initiatives are currently in place within the Department to minimise the use of paper. Specific examples include: setting printers to print double sided by default, making some Home Office publications available only online and encouraging staff to avoid printing e-mails. Single sided printing may sometimes be appropriate and this is an issue we shall continue to focus on.

It is not possible to provide estimated savings generated by the adoption of a policy of two sided printing for correspondence, as records on print volumes are not held centrally.

Deportation

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have taken up *(a)* facilitated return and *(b)* assisted voluntary return in each of the last five years. [297083]

Mr. Woolas: The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has provided the Home Affairs Committee with regular updates on the number of foreign nationals removed under the facilitated returns scheme (FRS) since its launch in October 2006.

Statistics on the number of foreign nationals removed under the Assisted Voluntary Returns programme for the last five years can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Deportation: Northern Ireland

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been deported from Northern Ireland in each year since 2005; and for what reasons. [297646]

Mr. Woolas: Information relating to the number of individuals deported from a specific area within the UK as well as the reason for deportation can be obtained only through the detailed examination of individual case files which would incur a disproportionate cost.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency writes to the Home Affairs Committee on a regular basis with the most robust and accurate information on immigration issues. Copies of the letters can found in the Library of the House.

Entry Clearances

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for visas to enter the UK were refused in each of the last five years. [296209]

Mr. Woolas: The total number of visa applications refused in each of the last five calendar years is shown in the following table:

	Applications received	*Applications refused*	*Percentage refused*
2004	2,534,532	419,637	17
2005	2,594,849	460,220	18
2006	2,772,599	480,599	17
2007	2,574,225	471,384	18
2008	2,456,903	441,710	18

Note:
The data are unpublished and should be treated as provisional.
Source:
Central Reference System.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the number of people resident in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford and *(b)* the London borough of Bexley who do not have leave to remain in the United Kingdom. [297094]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not available. By its very nature, illegal immigration is exceptionally difficult to quantify and no government has previously been able to produce a definitive figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally.

By next year, the phased implementation of e-borders will ensure that the vast majority of non-EEA nationals will be counted in and out of the UK, with all such movements being counted by 2014.

Local immigration teams are being established to serve every community in the UK. Each team will work closely with police, local authorities and many other local partners to target immigration crime, including working to detect and remove those who have overstayed. The local immigration team covering the London borough of Bexley (including Bexleyheath and Crayford) began operating on 14 September 2009.

Entry Clearances: Children

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were granted a visa to enter the UK in each of the last five years. [296210]

Mr. Woolas: The total number of children (i.e. persons aged under 18 on the date of application) granted a visa to enter the UK in any visa category in each of the last five calendar years is shown in the following table:

	Issued
2004	260,308
2005	287,637
2006	313,836
2007	291,375
2008	274,404

Note:
The data are unpublished and should be treated as provisional.
Source:
Central Reference System.

Entry Clearances: Fees and Charges

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria govern the currency exchange rates used in High Commissions and embassies in relation to fees charged for visas. [297186]

Mr. Woolas: Visa fees are payable in local currency. The principles for conversion are set by the Consular Fee Regulations (1981) which allow for the rate of exchange to be adjusted in the interests of administrative efficiency. This is mainly to avoid frequent changes in fees, and to help in giving change, and is the agreed way of translating fees set in sterling by Parliament into local currency. The consular rate of exchange is based on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's corporate exchange rate, from which it may vary by up to 10 per cent., and it is kept under regular review to ensure that it stays within the required range.

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applicants from Pakistan for family settlement visas have won appeals against refusal which have not yet been implemented. [291872]

Mr. Woolas: The Visa Section in Islamabad has a total of 1,870 settlement visa cases which require further processing following the allowing of an appeal. There are further cases (less than 20) in the UK Visa Section, which has processed Pakistan settlement visa applications since 1 February 2009.

Upon notification of the appeal decision, and before the issue of a visa, checks will be made to ensure the applicant still wishes to travel and that there have been no material changes in his circumstances since the original decision.

Forensic Science Service

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions have taken place between the Chief Executive of the Forensic Science Service (FSS) and his Department on the future of the FSS since July 2009. [296011]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 27 October 2009]:* As shareholder in the FSS Ltd., it is normal practice for the Home Office Minister to hold regular bilateral meetings with the chairman of the FSS (who held the post of executive chairman, covering both the chairman and CEO roles until earlier this month) and the chief executive. They have met once since July.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases each Forensic Science Service centre dealt with in each of the last five years. [296013]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 27 October 2009]:* Each of the Forensic Science Service laboratories has dealt with the following number of cases in each of the last five years.

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Chepstow	7,108	5,995	6,394	6,492	5,721
Chorley	29,890	27,710	23,596	21,766	20,455
Birmingham Priory	12,999	7,014	7,273	6,452	5,710
Wetherby	9,658	9,811	9,644	9,922	10,643
Huntingdon	51,100	60,197	52,675	45,614	40,415
London	16,623	18,087	15,766	12,911	13,279

Immigration

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration cases had not been resolved on 31 March in each of the last five years. [296291]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not regularly reported on by the UK Border Agency and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost through the examination of individual case files and records.

Immigration Controls

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many migrants entered the UK under each tier of the points-based immigration system in 2008. [294097]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information is provided in the following table.

Passengers[1] [2] entering the United Kingdom under the Points Based System, 2008[3]: United Kingdom

	Number of journeys
Total Points Based System (inc dependants)[4]	4,300
Of which:	
Main applicants	
Tier 1 Highly Skilled Workers	3,220
Tier 2 Skilled Workers General	*
Tier 5 Temporary Workers and Youth Mobility	25
Total PBS main applicants	3,240
Dependants	
Tier 1 Dependants	1,050
Tier 5 Dependants	5
Total PBS dependants	1,060

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest three significant figures, except for figures less than 1,000, which are rounded to the nearest 5 (- = 0, * = 1 or 2). Figures may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] Excludes EEA and Swiss nationals.

[3] Provisional figures.

[4] The phased implementation of Tier 1 of the Points Based System took place between February 2008—June 2008 and Tiers 2 and 5 were implemented in November 2008.

Source:
Migration Statistics, Home Office

Immigration Controls: Ports

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of private vehicles entering the UK were searched by UK Border Agency officials at the *(a)* Hull, *(b)* Dover, *(c)* Portsmouth and *(d)* Southampton port of entry in the latest period for which figures are available. [297615]

Mr. Woolas: It is not possible to provide accurate figures relating to the number of private vehicles searched at UK ports. Records relating to vehicle searches do not routinely reflect whether the vehicle is privately owned.

It is not possible to provide the proportion of vehicles searched by the UK Border Agency at UK ports without excessive bureaucracy and disproportionate cost.

Immigration: Tibet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals of Tibetan origin have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused (i) asylum and (ii) indefinite leave to remain in each year since 1997. [296882]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information is unavailable.

Information on asylum and settlement is published annually and quarterly. Annual statistics for 2008 and statistics for Q2 2009 are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate web site at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Robbery

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of cash-in-transit robberies; and what common characteristics of such crimes his Department has identified. [297149]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government have been working very closely with key stakeholders from the police, security and banking industries, the retail sector and the trade unions on the tackling of cash in transit robberies and through this partnership approach have developed a good understanding of the extent and nature of these offences. Through this work we are aware that there were 1,000 cash in transit attacks in 2008. A wide variety of data are shared among these stakeholders including not only police intelligence but also data from the British Security Industry Association on the number of cash in transit robberies that take place on a daily basis, the location of these offences, the type of premises attacked and the time of day that they take place. These data help to inform the action that needs to be taken by ourselves and our partners to tackle these offences.

Small Retailer Grant Fund

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many grants from the Small Retailer Grant Fund have been *(a)* applied for and *(b)* awarded since the fund's inception; and what average amount has been awarded. [296075]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 28 October 2009]:* The grants administrator for the Small Retailers Capital Grants Fund has received 1,851 small grant, and 95 partnership grant, applications.

The applications are still being assessed and therefore no awards have yet been made.

Applicants for the fund could receive up to £3,000 for individuals and up to £50,000 for partnerships.

UK Border Agency: Correspondence

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK Border Agency plans to respond to the letters of 20 July and 9 September 2009 from the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham sent on behalf of his constituent Mrs Brenda Williams. [297118]

Mr. Woolas: In response to the letters of 20 July and 9 September 2009, the deputy director for family and economic migration of the London and south east region wrote to the hon. Member on 29 October 2009.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Armed Forces

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the current roulement were unable to complete pre-deployment training prior to deployment in Afghanistan. [297930]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No armed forces personnel deploy to Afghanistan without being fully trained for the job they are required to do. Pre-deployment training is mandatory for all personnel. The quantity and nature of this training varies between individuals and units depending on existing skill levels and the role to be filled on deployment.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans there are for the deployment of the Gibraltar regiment to Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [296910]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* The primary role of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment is to support the defence and security of Gibraltar. Deployments in support of other tasks have been undertaken by individual volunteers; 15 personnel from the Royal Gibraltar Regiment have deployed on operations in Afghanistan between August 2004 and February 2009. Since then there has been a temporary suspension in volunteers being deployed while we investigated a potential issue with compensation arrangements covering such deployments. The Royal Gibraltar Regiment are entitled to compensation benefits under their own terms and conditions of service including when deployed to Afghanistan. Work has commenced to bring these compensation arrangements in line with the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme through legislation. The temporary suspension has now been lifted.

Armed Forces: Hepatitis C

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of service personnel who contracted hepatitis C virus through treatment in hospital in each of the last 30 years. [298065]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It is estimated that the number of such cases in the UK in recent years is very small, but definitive information is not held centrally. To provide the information requested would require the identification and examination of the individual medical records of service patients who contracted hepatitis C and had received in-patient treatment in any hospital worldwide during the last 30 years. Such records should only be viewed for non-clinical reasons with the express consent of each individual concerned in order to protect patient confidentiality, and the information could therefore be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the London living-out allowance cost his Department in each year from 1992 until the end of that scheme. [297384]

Mr. Kevan Jones: We have been unable to locate any records corresponding to a "London living-out allowance" and therefore cannot provide the costs to the Department.

In 1997 living allowances were reviewed and over time have become progressively harmonised. At that time allowances for London consisted of London allowance, lodging allowance and meals out allowance. Costs attributable to each of these allowances are not held centrally and could be obtained only by searches of legacy systems and manual records thus incurring disproportionate costs.

London allowances currently consist of recruitment and retention allowance (London), for all those service personnel that work within five miles of Charing Cross, and food and incidental allowance for those personnel living in substitute service single accommodation.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether a retired former regular member of the armed forces who is now a member of the regular reserve force is entitled to additions to the existing pension on completion of additional service. [298468]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Former members of the regular armed forces who undertake a period of mobilised reserve service are eligible for membership of the Reserve Forces Pension Scheme (RFPS). Under this scheme, all benefits accrued will be paid at age 60 for those who serve until the age of 60. If they leave before aged 60, their benefits will be preserved and paid at age 65.

Under the RFPS periods of mobilised reserve service cannot be added to an existing armed forces pension.

Armed Forces: Postal Services

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make an assessment of the merits of subsidising overseas postage costs for British forces personnel incurred as a result of the closure of British Forces Post Offices at *(a)* SHAPE, *(b)* Brussels, *(c)* Brunssum, *(d)* Ramstein, *(e)* Stavanger, *(f)* Karup, *(g)* Rome, *(h)* Milan, *(i)* Lisbon, *(j)* Valencia and *(k)* Norfolk, Virginia; and if he will make a statement. [298073]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Basic Forces Post Office services will be retained at the locations stated. When families are posted to locations which do not have access to the full Forces Post Office service, their local overseas allowance is calculated to take account of the increased expense of using the international postal service. This also reflects the charges levied by mail order companies posting out to international locations, including the cost of delivery services which provide secure delivery of mail or parcels.

Armed Forces: Secondment

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK military personnel are *(a)* on secondment to foreign governments and *(b)* on attachment to the armed forces of other countries. [291974]

Bill Rammell: The information required is not held in the exact format requested. However, as at 1 November 2009, some 580 military personnel are either on loan, secondment or part of an individual exchange, with other Governments or Armed Forces. An additional 147 military personnel fill Defence Attache posts.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required, *(b)* actual and *(c)* fit for task strength of each corps of the Army is. [297924]

Bill Rammell: In the following table "required strength" and "actual strength" figures are shown as "funded liability" and "trained strength" respectively.

All figures shown in the table are from the Army Personnel Statistics Report (APSR), published on the Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) website:

www.dasa.mod.uk

APSR data are derived from the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system.

As at 1 September 2009 figures for the Regular Army are provided in the following table.

Organisation		*Funded liability*	*Trained strength*[1]
Staff		763	840
Royal Armoured Corps		5,772	5,810
Royal Artillery		7,476	7,570
Royal Engineers		9,529	9,290
Royal Signals		8,319	7,630
Infantry		24,519	23,980
Army Air Corps		2,047	2,120
Royal Army Chaplains Department		148	130
Royal Logistics Corps		15,848	15,190
Royal Army Medical Corps		3,190	2,990
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers		9,820	9,580
Adjutant General's Corps	Provost	1,756	1,700
	Staff and Personnel Support	3,911	3,530

Organisation		Funded liability	Trained strength[1]
	Military Provost Service	101	110
	Educational and Training Services	344	340
	Army Legal Services	114	100
	Unknown[2]	—	60
Royal Army Veterinary Corps		222	310
Small Arms School Corps		151	150
Royal Army Dentistry Corps		436	380
Intelligence Corps		1,648	1,450
Army Physical Training Corps		448	460
Queen Alexandra's Royal Auxiliary Nursing Corps		1,136	840
Corps of Army Music		901	810

[1] Trained Strength figures are rounded.

[2] These are trained members of the AGC who, due to data input errors in the JPA system, are not allocated to a sub Regimental Corps.

Not recorded in the table are Long Service List (LSL) soldiers and Gurkhas. LSL are those soldiers who have completed over 22 years' service and have extended their commitment to Army. LSL are treated as a cap badge in their own right for career management purposes. As at 1 September 2009, LSL funded liability was 570, and trained strength 500. Current Gurkha liability is 2,991. Gurkha Trained strength is currently 3,499.

"Fit for Task" has been interpreted as fit to deploy for any form of duty on deployment, including personnel listed as having limited deployability. Data are calculated from Personnel Unable to Deploy (PUD) which is derived from unit returns and includes Gurkha manpower.

As at 1 October, Infantry "Fit for Task" strength, excluding 1 Parachute Regiment was 20,340. Royal Armoured Corps "Fit for Task" strength (excluding 1 Royal Tank Regiment (RTR)—element belonging to Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Regiment—and Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment) was 4,328.

"Fit for Task" figures for other corps are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

As funded liability and trained strength data are collected at different times on a different basis for different purposes to fit for task data, comparisons between the two data sets may be misleading.

Armed Forces: Tribunals

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on which tribunals of inquiry his Department was represented in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008; on what occasions his Department was legally represented; and what his estimate is of the cost to his Department of each such inquiry in each such year. [294994]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD incurred the costs shown for legal representation at three statutory public inquiries, which have replace[illegible]ribunals of inquiries, in 2006, 2007 and 2008. Most of the costs were for legal representation for former and current soldiers, rather than the MOD itself.

£

Inquiry	FY 2006-07	FY 2007-08	FY 2008-09
The Bloody Sunday Inquiry	305,206	269,962	174,300
The Rosemary Nelson Inquiry	n/a	35,106	99,466
The Billy Wright Inquiry	n/a	12,149	4,118

n/a = Not available.

The costs incurred for the Rosemary Nelson and Billy Wright Inquiries in 2006-07 were not recorded separately from other work carried out by the same solicitors and cannot be individually identified. Other costs to the MOD arising from these inquiries are not recorded separately.

In addition, the MOD incurred legal and other costs arising from the Nimrod Review in 2008-09.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many broken axles were recorded for each armoured vehicle type deployed in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq in each year since 2006. [297931]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Secretary of State for Defence gave on 22 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 624W.

Army: Manpower

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* trained strength, *(b)* actual strength and *(c)* numbers fit for duty is of the (i) Royal Regiment of Scotland, (ii) Scots Guards, (iii) Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, (iv) 1st Royal Tank Regiment, (v) 19th Regiment Royal Artillery and (vi) 40th Regiment Royal Artillery. [296035]

Bill Rammell: As at 1 October 2009, the figures were:

Unit	Trained requirement	Actual strength	Fit for duty
Roya[illegible]egiment of Scotland	3,230	2,825	2,806
Scots Guards	753	665	664
Royal Scots Dragoon Guards	589	511	510
19th Regt RA	552	569	560
40th Regt RA	467	502	497

Figures for 1 RTR, an element of which forms part of a tri-service organisation, are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

"Trained Requirement" has been interpreted as the maximum number of trained posts in a battalion's peace time configuration.

"Actual strength" has been interpreted as the number of personnel assigned to a battalion for its planned duties. It will also include augmentees who are temporarily assigned if needed to support the role of the battalion (for operational military tasks and events that cannot be achieved within required strengths). Similarly, the figures exclude those assigned out of the battalion to augment other units.

"Fit for duty" has been interpreted as fit for primary role, including personnel listed as having limited deployability, plus personnel who are unfit for deployment but who can perform a role in an alternative capacity. The difference between the Actual Strength and Number Fit for Duty represents those who are medically non-effective, i.e. are unfit for any form of duty.

Defence: Scotland

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 31-3W, on defence: Scotland, what defence establishments in Scotland are presently operated by his Department in each parliamentary constituency. [298459]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following table lists Ministry of Defence sites in Scotland by parliamentary constituency. It should be noted that this list does not include the Volunteer Estate, Army Career and Information Offices, Armed Forces Careers Offices or Service Family Accommodation.

Name of site	*Constituency*
Kirk O Shotts Mould and Comms Site	Airdrie and Shotts
Royal Marines Condor	Angus
Royal Naval Armament Depot Coulport	Argyll and Bute
Defence Munitions Centre (DMC) Glen Douglas	Argyll and Bute
Ardgarten Training Area	Argyll and Bute
Blarbuie Rifle Range	Argyll and Bute
Clynder Comms Site	Argyll and Bute
Colonsay Comms Site	Argyll and Bute
Loch Fyne	Argyll and Bute
Loch Goil	Argyll and Bute
Oil Fuel depot Garelochhead	Argyll and Bute
Finnart Ocean Terminal	Argyll and Bute
Garelochead Training Area	Argyll and Bute
Islay Comms Site	Argyll and Bute
Rhu Port Logistics Unit	Argyll and Bute
Defence Estates (DE) Machrihanish	Argyll and Bute
Mullach Dubh Comms Site	Argyll and Bute
Iss Radio Meall Mor	Argyll and Bute
Camrhu Monitor Station	Argyll and Bute
Mull Communications Site	Argyll and Bute
Her Majesty's Naval Base Clyde	Argyll and Bute
NATO POL Depot Campbeltown	Argyll and Bute
NATO POL Depot Loch Striven	Argyll and Bute
Ru Stafnish Radio Station	Argyll and Bute
Tiree Comms Site	Argyll and Bute
DSCA Radio Brown Carrick	Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock
RAF Buchan	Banff and Buchan
Mormond Hill Comms Site	Banff and Buchan
ISS Radio Crimond	Banff and Buchan
Dunion Hill Mould Comms Site	Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk
Cape Wrath Bombing Range	Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross
Invergordon Burial Rights	Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross
Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment	Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross
Tain Training Area DTE	Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross
Old Man of Wick Rifle Range	Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross
Wyvis Training Area	Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross/Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Dundonald Hill Comms Site	Central Ayrshire
HMS Gannet	Central Ayrshire
Defence Procurement Agency Seismic Stations Eskdalemuir	Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale
Eastriggs Storage Depot	Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale
Green Lowther Hill Radio Station	Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale
Ballscalloch Radio Station	Dumfries and Galloway
Castle Kennedy Training Area	Dumfries and Galloway
Cambret Hill Mould Site	Dumfries and Galloway
Kirkcudbright Training Area	Dumfries and Galloway
West Freugh	Dumfries and Galloway
Galloway Training Area	Dumfries and Galloway/Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock
Barry Buddon Training Camp	Dundee East Burgh
Craigowl Hill Mould and Comms Site	Dundee West Burgh
DMC Crombie	Dunfermline and West Fife
HMS Caledonia	Dunfermline and West Fife
DE Rosyth	Dunfermline and West Fife
DE South Arm Rosyth	Dunfermline and West Fife
Edinburgh Castle	Edinburgh East Burgh
Dreghorn Barracks	Edinburgh South West
Inchdrewer House	Edinburgh South West
Redford Cavalry Barracks	Edinburgh South West
Redford Infantry Barracks	Edinburgh South West
Kirknewton Airfield	Edinburgh South West
Castlelaw Ranges	Edinburgh South West and Midlothian
Craigiehall	Edinburgh West Burgh
Cerium Building	Glasgow Central Burgh
Kentigern House	Glasgow Central Burgh
Museum RHF Glasgow	Glasgow Central Burgh
Black Dog Range	Gordon
Scotstown Moor	Gordon
Cameron Barracks	Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey
Fort George	Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey
Foyers Comms Site	Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey

Name of site	*Constituency*
Inverness Training Camp Kinguissie	Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch abd Strathspey
Greenock Navy Buildings	Inverclyde
ISS Radio Greenock	Inverclyde
Burntisland	Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath
Craigkelly Comms Site	Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath
Cullaloe Hills NATO Relay Station	Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath
Glencorse Barracks	Midlothian
Burgie Hill Radio Station	Moray
RAF Kinloss	Moray
RAF Lossiemouth	Moray
RAF Aird Uig	Na h-Eileanan an Iar
DE Hebrides	Na h-Eileanan an Iar
RAF Benbecula	Na h-Eileanan an Iar
Isle of Lewis Mould and Comms Site	Na h-Eileanan an Iar
Barvas Rifle Range	Na h-Eileanan an Iar
Stornoway DRDF Site	Na h-Eileanan an Iar
DMC Beith	North Ayrshire and Arran
RAF Leuchars	North East Fife
Tighnablair Training Area	Ochil and South Perthshire
Collafirth Hill Forward Scatter Site	Orkney and Shetland
Fair Isle Mould Comms Site	Orkney and Shetland
Rams Dale Range	Orkney and Shetland
RAF Saxa Vord	Orkney and Shetland
UGSAS Glasgow	Paisley and Renfrewshire North
Balduff Training Area	Perth and North Perthshire
Pitlochry Mould and Comms Site	Perth and North Perthshire
Aultbea Training Camp	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Applecross	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Rona	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Kyle of Lochalsh	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Glendocherty Mould and Comms Site	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Inverness Training Camp Dundonnell	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Inverness Training Camp Tulloch	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Balmacara House	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Kinlochleven Training Area	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Loch Eyenort Comms Site	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Loch Ewe Training Area	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
NATO POL Depot Loch Ewe	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Forthside Stirling	Stirling
HQ 51 Highland Brigade Forthside	Stirling
Queen Victoria School	Stirling
Stirling Castle RHQ and Museum	Stirling
DSG Forthside	Stirling
ISS Radio Bruxie Hill	West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine
Victoria Barracks	West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many visits he has made to *(a)* repatriation ceremonies for the remains of servicemen, *(b)* the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine, Selly Oak and *(c)* the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre Headley Court in the course of his official duties since his appointment. [298403]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Following my appointment as Defence Secretary on 5 June 2009, I visited the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine, Selly Oak, on 2 July. I also visited both the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine and the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre a number of times when I was Minister for the Armed Forces.

Ministers have offered to attend repatriations on many occasions but have deferred to the advice of the Service Chiefs that these ceremonies are very much an occasion for the families and the military to pay their respects.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's *(a)* computers, *(b)* laptops and *(c)* memory sticks were (i) lost and (ii) stolen in each month in 2009 to date. [297939]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD takes any loss of information and associated media storage devices very seriously and has robust procedures in place to mitigate against such occurrences. New processes, instructions and technological aids are also being implemented to mitigate human errors and raise awareness of every individual in the Department.

The following table details how many computers, laptops and USB flash memory devices were reported as lost and stolen in each month in 2009.

Lost/stolen CIS for 2009

	Device type	*Lost*	*Stolen*
January	Laptops	1	10
	Desktop Computers	1	4
	USB Flash Memory Devices	4	1
February	Laptops	2	2
	Desktop Computers	6	1
	USB Flash Memory Devices	3	0
March	Laptops	5	4
	Desktop Computers	0	2
	USB Flash Memory Devices	1	0
April	Laptops	4	7
	Desktop Computers	0	0
	USB Flash Memory Devices	15	1
May	Laptops	1	8
	Desktop Computers	2	1
	USB Flash Memory Devices	1	2
June	Laptops	2	6
	Desktop Computers	0	0
	USB Flash Memory Devices	2	0
July	Laptops	3	5
	Desktop Computers	0	4
	USB Flash Memory Devices	9	0

Lost/stolen CIS for 2009

	Device type	*Lost*	*Stolen*
August	Laptops	4	19
	Desktop Computers	0	0
	USB Flash Memory Devices	3	0
September	Laptops	2	1
	Desktop Computers	0	2
	USB Flash Memory Devices	3	0
October	Laptops	1	4
	Desktop Computers	0	0
	USB Flash Memory Devices	1	1
November (as of 2 November 2009)	Laptops	0	0
	Desktop Computers	0	0
	USB Flash Memory Devices	0	0
Total	Laptops	25	66
	Desktop Computers	9	14
	USB Flash Memory Devices	42	5

Departmental Finance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated monetary value was of his Department's spare parts which have been lost in transit in each year since 2001. [297944]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Data on losses are not held in the format requested, to enable the separate identification of 'spare parts'. This information could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in each year since 1997. [297929]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Total amounts of all types of bonus paid to MOD civilian personnel in each financial year since 2003-04 are provided in the following table:

	Bonus total (£)
2003-04	24,866,213
2004-05	34,106,162
2005-06	43,317,178
2006-07	39,147,749
2007-08	46,103,238
2008-09	52,984,656
2009-10	47,283,853

Figure for 2009-10 is a partial year figure covering the period 1 April 2009 to 31 October 2009.

We are unable to provide details of bonus payments paid during the period April 1997 to March 2003 as the data are no longer available electronically and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department travelled by (i) car, (ii) rail and (iii) air on Government business in each year since 1997. [298530]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nuclear Submarines

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons his Department has decided to reduce the radius of the emergency pre-planning zone around a berthed nuclear-powered submarine from two kilometres to 1.5 kilometres. [297796]

Bill Rammell: Any decision to reduce the radius of an emergency planning zone is not made by the Ministry of Defence.

The Health and Safety Executive's nuclear installations inspectorate is the national authority responsible for determining the radius of the emergency planning zone. The radius is based on assessments of the hazards associated with berthing nuclear submarines, as submitted by the Ministry of Defence, to meet the requirements of the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001 (REPPIR 2001).

Reserve Forces

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what niche reserve forces skills have been identified as having the potential to contribute to projects undertaken by the Department for International Development. [297524]

Bill Rammell: Over recent months, the Department has been working closely with DFID on how reservists can contribute to stabilisation operations. The two Departments are developing a framework for reservist employment that includes the identification of necessary niche skills from 14 functional areas ranging from security to reconstruction. This work is expected to conclude over the next few months.

Reserve Forces: Manpower

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual strength of the (i) Territorial Army, (ii) Royal Marines Reserves, (iii) Royal Naval Reserve and (iv) Royal Auxiliary Air Force is. [299999]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the Ministry of Defence Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09 which was laid before Parliament on 21 July 2009.

Reserve Forces: Training

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he expects any changes to Territorial Army operational training in Northern Ireland to result from the restoration of the training budget. [298599]

Bill Rammell: The Government have repeatedly made clear that no one in the armed forces will deploy on operations without being trained for the role they are being asked to perform. Training for Territorial Army (TA) personnel preparing for mobilisation was specifically exempted from the decision to reduce TA activity for the remainder of the current financial year. Neither this decision, nor the subsequent decision to restore training for all TA personnel this year, has therefore affected the preparations of those in the TA who are currently earmarked for operations.

Review of Defence Airfields

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will implement the recommendations of the Tri-Service Review of Defence Airfields in the United Kingdom. [297901]

Bill Rammell: We have implemented a number of recommendations from the Tri-Service Review of Defence Airfields in the United Kingdom. Other findings from this work have been taken into account when drawing up future plans for the defence estate. These are kept under constant review to ensure that the best use is made of the defence estate for our armed forces.

Territorial Army: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Territorial Army personnel have been mobilised for three or more overseas deployments. [297895]

Bill Rammell: Territorial Army personnel are protected by the Reserve Forces Act 1996 which restricts a reservist from being re-mobilised for a specified period depending upon the operation on which they have served.

Information on the number of personnel mobilised for three or more deployments is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel in the Territorial Army are liable to be deployed on service overseas. [297897]

Bill Rammell: As of 1 September 2009 the strength of the Territorial Army was 34,380. Of these approximately 19,000 had completed phase 2 training, were not bound by limitations of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 and were therefore available for mobilisation, subject to their being releasable from their civilian commitments and completing additional pre deployment training. The figure of 19,000 does not include the 1,200 TA personnel currently mobilised in support of operations. The figure of 34,380 includes University Officer Training Corps Cadets who are, of course, non deployable.

Trident

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department plans to *(a)* participate in the US Navy Conventional Trident Modification programme and *(b)* equip Trident missiles with conventional warheads. [298617]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK has no plans to arm its Trident missiles with conventional warheads or to participate in the United States' Conventional Trident Modification programme.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many unmanned aerial vehicles of each type are *(a)* in service and *(b)* operationally deployable. [297925]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There are 176 Desert Hawk III unmanned air vehicles (UAVs) in service.

The Hermes 450 UAV capability is procured on a service provision basis. The service specifies the number of flying hours to be provided, not the number of air vehicles. The service is, however, currently supported by 10 air vehicles.

Four Reaper UAVs have been delivered into service, one of which was lost on operations in April 2008. Two others are on order.

I am withholding information on the number of UAVs that are operationally deployable as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

TRANSPORT

A1: Speed Limits

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what reason a temporary 50 mph speed limit has been introduced on the A1 at Wyboston at times when no road works are taking place and no lanes are coned off; on what date the temporary speed limit was introduced; what the reason is for the duration of the restriction; for what reasons the limit has been in place for several weeks; and if he will make a statement. [298246]

Chris Mole: This temporary 50 mph speed limit came into effect on the A1 between Wyboston and the junction for Little Paxton on Friday 4 September to coincide with the start of the A1 Eaton Socon Bypass resurfacing scheme. Most of the works are undertaken at night or at weekends and the limit will remain in place until the completion of the works in December 2009.

The speed limit is permanently in force for safety reasons since there can still be incomplete safety fencing, temporary road surfaces, raised iron work and unprotected drainage ditches on both the northbound and southbound carriageways. In addition, the workforce can still be present on the road at any time carrying out routine tasks such as surveying and preparation work for the next carriageway closure.

The Highways Agency has concluded that the speed limits need to be in place for the duration of the works, given these safety reasons and that it would not be practicable to keep removing and reinstating the speed limit to reflect whatever is happening on site at any given time.

A1079: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment his Department has made of the state of the A1079 in East Yorkshire; and what plans he has to upgrade it. [298250]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport has not made any assessment of the state of the A1079 in East Yorkshire and has no plans to upgrade it. As a local authority road this is the responsibility of the East Riding of Yorkshire council.

Airports

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he plans to publish his national policy statement within the framework envisaged by the Planning Act 2008 on airports; what recent representations he has received on this issue; what recent discussions he has had on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [298268]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport plans to publish a draft National Policy Statement on Airports by 2011 with a view to designating it later that year. I have had no recent representations or discussions specifically on this issue.

Airports: Expansion

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what representations he has received from hon. and right hon. Members of each party in favour of *(a)* a third runway at Heathrow Airport, *(b)* a second runway at Gatwick Airport, *(c)* further expansion of Stansted Airport and *(d)* a new airport in the Thames Estuary. [296409]

Paul Clark: No central records are held on any such representations and to search for the information would involve disproportionate cost.

Bedford Station

Patrick Hall: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects Bedford station to have capacity for 12 carriage trains as a result of the Thameslink programme. [299150]

Chris Mole: Network Rail is currently forecasting that work to enable 12 car operation at Bedford station will be complete by late 2011. This will enable a 12 car service to operate on this route from December 2011 as originally planned.

Biofuels: Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his assessment is of the potential contribution of users of high blend biodiesel towards the UK's energy target of a 34 per cent. reduction in greenhouse gases by 2020. [296796]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport is currently engaging with stakeholders, and undertaking wide ranging economic analysis regarding our 2020 renewable transport energy targets. The potential uptake of different renewable transport fuels, including high blends of biofuel, will be assessed as part of this analysis. This will inform our National Action Plan, due for publication next summer, in which the Department will set out a clear strategy for meeting our targets.

Cycling: Accidents

Annette Brooke: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many people aged *(a)* 16 years and under and *(b)* over 16 years (i) received serious head injuries and (ii) died as a result of accidents involving bicycles in each year since 2003. [297964]

Paul Clark: The number of people aged *(a)* 16 years old and under and *(b)* over 16 years old killed or seriously injured as a result of personal injury road accidents involving bicycles between 2003-08 (the latest year for which figures are available) is given in the table.

Reported casualties[1], killed or seriously injured in personal injury road accidents involving pedal cycles, by age, Great Britain, 2003-08

	Killed			*Seriously injured*		
	0-16	*17 and over*	*Total[2]*	*0-16*	*17 and over*	*Total[2]*
2003	20	99	120	646	1,717	2,404
2004	25	114	139	615	1,626	2,275
2005	25	131	157	573	1,710	2,334
2006	34	118	153	547	1,826	2,415
2007	16	125	142	591	1,900	2,543
2008	16	103	119	462	2,049	2,559

[1] Includes pedal cyclists and other casualties.
[2] Includes casualties where age was unknown or unspecified.

Information on people who received serious head injuries as a result of a cycling accident is not available.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Scott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department spent on advertising *(a)* in the printed press, *(b)* on television and *(c)* on radio in each of the last three years. [295206]

Chris Mole: The majority of press, television and radio advertising media investment by the Department for Transport is in support of the THINK! road safety and the Act on CO_2 campaigns. Major advertising investment by executive agencies has been by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, in support of Electronic Vehicle Licensing, Sale of Marks and Vehicle Excise Enforcement (Continuous Registration).

The information sought is not held in the format requested by all parts of the Department and can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Information available is included in the following table:

£000

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
(a) Printed press advertising			
DfT(C)	2,136	2,184	1,105
DSA	148	91	43
DVLA	n/a	n/a	n/a

			£000
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
GCDA	n/a	n/a	n/a
HA	n/a	117	41
MCA	71	50	73
VCA	n/a	n/a	n/a
VOSA	0	0	0
(b) Television advertising			
DfT(C)	5,171	8,002	8,171
DSA	0	0	0
DVLA	n/a	n/a	n/a
GCDA	0	0	0
HA	0	0	0
MCA	4	15	13
VCA	n/a	n/a	n/a
VOSA	0	0	0
(c) Radio advertising			
DfT(C)	2,578	2,511	3,089
DSA	0	0	41
DVLA	n/a	n/a	n/a
GCDA	0	0	0
HA	n/a	40	66
MCA	0	0	0
VCA	n/a	n/a	n/a
VOSA	0	0	0

Marketing advertising expenditure across all media types is available and is set out in the following table for each of the last three years.

Marketing advertising expenditure

			£000
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
DfT(C)	16,395	15,611	16,588
DSA	148	91	530
DVLA	7,098	7,716	9,484
GCDA	<1	0	3
HA	229	157	295
MCA	74	66	86
VCA	23	24	19
VOSA	0	0	0

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Scott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what percentage of postal services provided for his Department and its agencies were provided by *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* other postal service providers (i) in 2007, (ii) in 2008, (iii) between 1 January and 1 July 2009 and (iv) after 1 July 2009. [298727]

Chris Mole: The requested information is not available in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Responsibility

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what *(a)* review, *(b)* consultations and *(c)* taskforces his Department is (i) responsible for and (ii) scheduled to undertake; on what date each such initiative that is underway (A) started and (B) is expected to be completed; what the purpose is of each; and what the estimated cost of each is. [298340]

Chris Mole: Details of the Department for Transport's current consultations and reviews have been placed in the Libraries of the House. The Department has no taskforces.

Information about the cost of each consultation and review is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many driving licences were suspended following the accumulation of penalty points in each of the last five calendar years. [298251]

Paul Clark: The requested data are only available for the last four years:

	Number
Driving licence disqualifications through totting-up 12 penalty points	
2006	41,035
2007	34,965
2008	32,568
2009 to date	20,659
Driving licences revoked under the New Drivers Act with six or more penalty points	
2006	17,273
2007	18,691
2008	18,417
2009 to date	6,999
Total of penalty point disqualifications and revocations	
2006	58,308
2007	53,656
2008	50,985
2009 to date	27,658

Driving: Mobile Telephones

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will estimate the number of drivers who regularly use a mobile telephone while driving. [298367]

Paul Clark: No such estimate has been undertaken but the Department for Transport undertakes an annual observational survey of drivers using mobile phones. The results of the most recent survey in September 2008 are summarised in the answer provided to the hon. Member by my predecessor the hon. Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 203-4W.

The results of the 2009 survey will be published when they are available.

Hard Shoulder Running Projects

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what decisions his Department has made on what technology to use to facilitate the forthcoming hard shoulder running projects. [298511]

Chris Mole: The technology used for hard shoulder running Managed Motorway schemes will be based on standard proven technology including variable message signs (type MS4 for text and pictograms), advanced motorway indicators (type Advanced Motorway (lane) Indicator for mandatory speed limits and other signs), digital safety speed enforcement cameras and CCTV. All early schemes will use a proven fixed camera solution for monitoring the hard shoulder prior to opening. These solutions will be similar to those used for the M42 Active Traffic Management pilot.

Heathrow Airport: Safety

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what plans he has to review his policy on airport public safety zones with particular reference to *(a)* their boundaries and *(b)* the buildings which are allowed within them; [298390]

(2) what consideration he has given to the application of his Department's public safety zones policy in respect of Heathrow Airport; [298391]

(3) what consideration was given to his Department's public safety zone policy when it was decided to support a third runway at Heathrow Airport; [298392]

(4) what area would be encompassed by a public safety zone if the third runway and sixth terminal at Heathrow Airport were to be constructed; [298393]

(5) what buildings are located in the public safety zones area to be established if a third runway at Heathrow Airport is constructed; and what the estimated cost of the compulsory purchase of these buildings by the airport operator is under existing legislation. [298397]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport currently has no plans to review its Public Safety Zone (PSZ) policy, which is set out in the DFT circular 1/2002 on "Control of Development in Airport Public Safety Zones".

The Department only establishes PSZs for existing airport runways. For proposed new runways it would be a matter for the airport operator—BAA in the case of Heathrow—to produce draft Public Safety Zone contours as part of any future planning application and to identify any properties that might be affected. This would then be subject to consultation as part of the normal planning process.

In relation to the decision to support a third runway at Heathrow airport, reference was made to PSZ policy both in the consultation document and in the safety section of the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" impact assessment (available on the DFTwebsite at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/heathrowconsultations/heathrowdecision/impactassessment/

Lorries: Testing

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans he has to use private goods vehicle testers in Preseli Pembrokeshire constituency in place of the goods vehicle testing centre operated by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency. [298054]

Paul Clark: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) has no plans to use private goods vehicle testers in Preseli Pembrokeshire constituency in place of the goods vehicle testing centre operated by the VOSA.

Motorways: Noise

John Howell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will make an assessment of the effectiveness of treatment by specific surface preservation treatments in reducing surface noise levels on motorways. [298692]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency is currently investigating a number of different surface preservation treatment processes for existing road pavements on the trunk road network. The treatments are intended to increase the service life of the pavement before the existing surface requires replacement due to surface disintegration or unacceptable reduction in skidding resistance. Investigations on the overall performance of these treatments is ongoing, to examine all aspects of their effectiveness. Initial assessment suggests that the treatments are likely to be either neutral or result in slight reductions in traffic noise levels over the lifetime of the treatment when compared with the current surfacing.

Network Rail: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department plans to provide to Network Rail in each year from 2009 to 2014. [296976]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* The schedule of direct payments from the Secretary of State to Network Rail under the Network Rail Deed of Grant is as follows:

	£ million
2009-10	3,366
2010-11	3,386
2011-12	3,411
2012-13	3,347
2013-14	3,071

Figures for 2010-11 and beyond are subject to indexation with reference to the retail price index. In addition, these figures do not include any contracted payments in respect of the rail network in Scotland which are subject to separate arrangements between Network Rail and Scottish Ministers.

Network Rail also receives income from other sources including passenger train operators, freight operators, retail and property. It also accesses further funding via borrowing. Its total revenue requirement for England and Wales, as determined by the independent Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) is as follows:

	£ million
2009-10	4,764
2010-11	4,805

	£ million
2011-12	4,836
2012-13	4,817
2013-14	4,806

The ORR has indicated that this level of income will be sufficient for Network Rail to deliver the outputs required by the Government's High Level Output Specification.

Postal Services

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of volume of mail which has been transported by *(a)* road, *(b)* rail, *(c)* air and *(d)* sea in each year since 2002. [296742]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold data for mail transported by rail or by sea.

The following tables show the amount of mail transport by road and by air. Comparable data for 2002 and 2003 for road are not available due to a change in collection methodology in 2004.

UK registered road hauliers

	Tonnes lifted (thousand)				
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Mail pouches/ other mail items	11,044	14,155	13,643	16,420	15,999
Parcels	25,423	17,540	18,431	13,473	15,562
Total	36,468	31,695	32,074	29,893	31,560

Note:
Only includes road goods vehicles over 3.5 tonnes, therefore mail carried in vans under this weight are not included.
Source:
Continuing Survey of Road Goods Transport, DFT

UK airports

	Tonnes set down and picked up (thousand)						
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Mail	188	177	219	210	188	206	234

Note:
Includes mail carried on both domestic and international flights to/from UK airports.
Source:
Civil Aviation Authority

Railway Network

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the identification by the railway industry of railway lines which would be suitable for reopening; and if he will make a statement. [298400]

Chris Mole: The report 'Connecting Communities', published by the Association of Train Operating Companies in June 2009, identifies a number of links where re-instating railway lines may offer value for money and also those where re-opening the line is unlikely to be a viable option. The report provides an indication to interested local authorities on where it might be worthwhile to explore further the potential of a re-opened rail line as a means of improving links to places currently without a rail service.

Railways

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Richmond Park (Susan Kramer) of 21 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 1447, what consideration is being given to the diversion to platforms 20 to 24 of trains currently terminating at London Bridge, with a view to expanding capacity for trains from the Sussex coast at that station. [298510]

Chris Mole: There are no plans to divert Sussex route trains which currently terminate at London Bridge station to Waterloo International Terminal platforms 20 to 24. Sussex route trains can only reach Waterloo by means of the circuitous route via Herne Hill. There are no spare paths available on that route in the peaks, and very few off-peak.

Railways: Standards

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what information his Department holds on the number of trains which were cancelled in each of the last five years by each train operating company; and how many of these cancellations occurred on *(a)* peak, *(b)* weekday off-peak and *(c)* weekend services. [298420]

Chris Mole: The information held is given in the following tables. This comprises the total number of trains cancelled by each franchised train operator in each of the five most recent financial years, including 2009-10 up to October 2009. In the case of London and south east operators, the number of peak-hour trains cancelled is also held.

The Department for Transport does not hold information on the number of trains cancelled on any specific day of the week, requested in *(b)* and *(c)* above.

The number of trains cancelled in each of the last five years by franchised train operating company:

All trains

	Full cancellations				
Train operator	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10 (to October 2009)*
ATW	2,837	2,214	1,394	1,136	381
c2c	1,343	1,152	1,249	986	349
Chiltern	1,366	938	715	738	410
CrossCountry	1,435	1,382	1,267	1,157	615
East Midlands Trains	1,952	1,970	2,197	1,351	582
FCC	5,565	5,166	4,280	5,533	2,476
FGW	4,609	7,045	8,153	4,500	1,783

All trains

Train operator	*Full cancellations*				
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10 (to October 2009)*
London Midland	6,203	6,198	5,623	7,558	2,714
London Overground	2,753	2,301	2,376	1,339	623
Merseyrail	3,038	2,077	1,847	1,613	688
Northern Rail	6,116	7,626	8,670	6,920	3,362
NXEA	7,261	9,207	7,307	6,493	2,856
NXEC	546	805	997	625	284
Southeastern	6,341	5,227	5,102	7,326	2,071
Southern	6,892	5,954	5,627	9,629	3,083
SWT	5,663	6,034	3,890	6,327	1,184
TPE	856	981	897	1,001	268
Virgin Trains	688	878	678	2,205	775
Total	65,464	67,155	62,269	66,406	24,504

The number of peak-hour trains cancelled in each of the last five years by franchised train operating company:

Peak services

Train operator	*Full cancellations*				
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10 (to October 2009)*
ATW	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
c2c	268	278	222	219	65
Chiltern	278	240	185	192	84
CrossCountry	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
East Midlands Trains	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
FCC	1,069	962	773	1,067	368
FGW 'Link' only	238	316	330	260	75
London Midland	63	109	76	276	62
London Overground	57	47	49	37	23
Merseyrail	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Northern Rail	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
NXEA	1,045	1,239	1,025	819	406
NXEC	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Southeastern	1,089	986	953	1,431	429
Southern	911	801	652	938	347
SWT	877	582	582	981	181
TPE	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Virgin Trains	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—

[1] No data available.

Roads: Accidents

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has conducted research on trends in the average length of time it takes to reopen a road following a collision in the last five years. [294711]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency records and undertakes analysis of incident clear-up times on motorways. On heavily trafficked roads in December 2008, 91 per cent. of incidents were cleared within 40 minutes and 97 per cent. were cleared within 90 minutes. The Highways Agency defines clearance of an incident as the period from when it takes control of that incident, to when the live carriageway and traffic flow is restored.

The Highways Agency has therefore not conducted specific research on trends in the average length of time taken to re-open a road in the last five years.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many road traffic accidents were reported on *(a)* the A2 in Bexley borough, *(b)* the A20 in Bexley borough, *(c)* Brampton Road, Bexleyheath, *(d)* Okehampton Crescent, Welling, *(e)* Gravel Hill, Bexley, *(f)* Upper Wickham Lane, Welling, *(g)* Knee Hill, Abbey Wood, *(h)* Park View Road, Bexleyheath, *(i)* Broadway, Bexleyheath, *(j)* Avenue Road, Bexleyheath, *(k)* Pickford Lane, Bexleyheath, *(l)* Long Lane, Bexleyheath, *(m)* Colyers Lane, Erith, *(n)* Thames Road, Crayford, *(o)* North End Road, Erith and *(p)* Erith Road, Bexleyheath in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [298556]

Paul Clark: The information requested is given as follows. Data from 2009 will be available in the summer of 2010:

Reported personal injury accidents on selected roads: 2007 and 2008

Road name	*2007*	*2008*
(a) A2 in Bexley Borough	23	25
(b) A20 in Bexley Borough	14	12

Reported personal injury accidents on selected roads: 2007 and 2008

Road name	*2007*	*2008*
(c) Brampton Road, Bexleyheath	7	10
(d) Okehampton Crescent, Welling	0	2
(e) Gravel Hill, Bexley	1	7
(f) Upper Wickham Lane, Welling	10	10
(g) Knee Hill, Abbey Wood	2	7
(h) Park View Road, Bexleyheath	8	9
(i) Broadway, Bexleyheath	11	10
(j) and *(k)* Avenue Road and Pickford Lane, Bexleyheath[1]	7	12
(l) Long Lane, Bexleyheath	6	4
(m) Colyers Lane, Erith	4	3
(n) Thames Road, Crayford	11	6
(o) North End Road, Erith	4	3
(p) Erith Road, Bexleyheath	12	16

[1] It is not possible to distinguish between Avenue Road and Pickford Lane.

Source:

Transport for London.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many deaths in road traffic accidents there were in each *(a)* district, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* metropolitan borough in each of the last five years; and what proportion of those deaths were of people under 25 years old. [298616]

Paul Clark: The information requested has been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many road traffic accidents in the UK involved (1) drivers with driving licences from each other EU member state in 2008; [299063]

(2) a foreign driver who did not hold a driving licence issued in the UK or another EU member state, broken down by nationality of driver. [299064]

Paul Clark: The information as requested on licences and road traffic accidents is not collected.

However, figures relating to the numbers of foreign registered vehicles involved in reported personal injury accidents in Great Britain and the resulting casualties are published in table 53 of Reported Road Casualties Great Britain which is available on the Department for Transport's website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/accidents/casualtiesgbar/rrcgb2008.

Roads: Safety

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the level of road safety in *(a)* the London Borough of Bexley, *(b)* Greater London and *(c)* Kent. [298557]

Paul Clark: A key comparison between local areas has been the percentage reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured (KSIs) achieved since the 1994 to 1998 period. This measure corresponds to the headline target in the 2000 national road safety strategy.

Table 1 shows the percentage change from the 1994 to 1998 annual average number of KSIs to the 2006 to 2008 annual average number in each of the areas and in Great Britain as a whole:

Table 1: percentage change in KSIs from 1994-1998 average to 2006-2008 average

	Percentage
Bexley	-34
Greater London	-43
Kent (County Council Area)	-37
Great Britain	-34

Safer City Funding

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which urban areas have received Safer City funding; and which of them have produced an evaluation report on the use of that funding. [298952]

Paul Clark: Gloucester is the only area which has received Safer City funding. The funding was provided during the period 1996 to 2001.

A project report is available on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/laguidance/reportonthegloucestersaferci4679

A further evaluation report (TRL Report 589: Gloucester Safer City Final Report) was produced in 2003 and is available from the Transport Research Laboratory at:

www.trl.co.uk

Sustrans: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much Sustrans has received from his Department in each of the last five years; and what information his Department holds on the amount Sustrans has raised for funding projects in respect of which matching funds were provided by his Department in each such year. [297016]

Mr. Khan: The following table shows how much the Department for Transport has paid Sustrans in each of the last five years and what information the Department holds on the amount Sustrans has raised for funding projects in respect of which match funding was provided by the Department.

£

Sustrans' projects	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Links to Schools	2,000,000	4,205,000	2,010,000	3,500,000	[1]—
Match funding	3,870,700	7,668,035	3,695,331	7,948,772	[1]—
Bike It	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	700,000	397,500

£

Sustrans' projects	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Match funding	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	510,000	610,000
Cycling Demonstration Towns (CDTs) Monitoring	11,698	28,698	27,407	73,017	[1]—
Match funding	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	[1]—
Selection of Cycling Demonstration Towns (CDTs) and support for set-up	12,148	4,948	4,474	11,627	[1]—
Match funding	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	[1]—
Safe Routes to Schools/School Travel Information Service	114,709	145,000	60,000	100,000	50,000
Match funding	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—

n/a = not applicable

[1] No money paid so far this financial year.

[2] Prior to 2008-09 Bike It grant paid directly to Bicycle Association.

[3] Information not available.

Thameslink

Patrick Hall: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects the first new train to enter into passenger service under the Thameslink rolling stock project. [299200]

Chris Mole: The first new Thameslink train is expected to enter passenger service by late 2013.

Patrick Hall: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his most recent assessment is of the total cost of the Thameslink programme. [299201]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is continually reviewing the costs associated with the Thameslink Programme. The current forecast of the total costs for the programme is around £5.5 billion to £6 billion.

Patrick Hall: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the level of passenger overcrowding on the Thameslink route of the First Capital Connect franchise. [299206]

Chris Mole: Based on data the Department for Transport collected in autumn 2008, levels of passenger overcrowding on the Thameslink route of the First Capital Connect Franchise during the peak periods are shown in the following table.

First Capital Connect Thameslink

	Percentage
Peak (AM) 2008 PiXC	5.7
Peak (PM) 2008 PiXC	1.7
Overall 2008 PiXC	3.8

Patrick Hall: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the most recent performance statistics are for the Thameslink route of the First Capital Connect franchise. [299207]

Chris Mole: The official industry performance data provided by Network Rail are for First Capital Connect as a whole. This information is not broken down by route or service group and therefore, we are unable to provide the statistics requested.

Patrick Hall: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the proposed changes to Blackfriars station under the Thameslink programme. [299208]

Chris Mole: Officials from the Department for Transport are closely monitoring all works covered by the Thameslink Programme, including works at Blackfriars Station.

Work is now well under way at Blackfriars station, with a number of new temporary measures that are designed to aid the flow of passengers during the construction works.

On completion the station will span the River Thames, with a new entrance on the south bank. In addition, the London Underground station will be completely modernised with an enhanced interchange between the National Rail and London Underground stations.

Patrick Hall: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions he has had with representatives of Bedford borough council on changes to Bedford station under the Thameslink programme. [299209]

Chris Mole: The only recent meeting that Department for Transport officials have had with representatives of Bedford borough council has been regarding the location of stabling facilities near to Bedford station. This meeting, convened by Network Rail, took place during spring 2009.

Thameslink: Manpower

Patrick Hall: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many construction jobs the Thameslink programme has created. [299197]

Chris Mole: Network Rail estimate that there are approximately 1,500 people currently working full-time in construction related jobs on the Thameslink Programme, with approximately a further 500 to 700 working on a part-time basis.

Patrick Hall: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many additional train drivers will be employed in order to operate the full Thameslink service on completion of the Thameslink programme. [299198]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport estimates that about an additional 80 drivers will be required to operate the enhanced Thameslink service.

The exact number of additional drivers will be determined by the final train service pattern and the associated detailed operational plan and timetabling work which will be undertaken in due course.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency: Haverfordwest

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what recent discussions he has had with road hauliers and bus operators on the future of the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency goods vehicle testing station in Haverfordwest; [297816]

(2) what recent representations he has received on the future of the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency goods vehicle testing station in Haverfordwest. [297817]

Paul Clark: No discussions have taken place with any party regarding the future of Haverfordwest testing station and no representations have been made regarding the future of the Haverfordwest testing station.

Waterloo International Terminal

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what expenditure on *(a)* the operation of, *(b)* the maintenance of, *(c)* security at and *(d)* other matters at Waterloo International terminal British Rail Board (Residuary) incurred in the most recent 12-month period for which figures are available. [295308]

Chris Mole: It is the Government's intention that the former Eurostar terminal at Waterloo is used to provide increased capacity for domestic passengers.

The former Eurostar terminal and platforms are also likely to be central to the wider redevelopment of Waterloo which would be a key project to transforming the station environment and accessibility, while also increasing capacity significantly. The Secretary of State has asked his station advisers to make early recommendations on the scope and options for the long-term development of Waterloo, including the former international terminal.

The costs that BRB (Residuary) Ltd. have incurred in managing the former Eurostar terminal at Waterloo in the 12 months to 31 March 2009 are as follows:

	£
Operations[1]	1,232,000
Maintenance	673,000
Security	36,000
Other	52,000

[1] Operations costs quoted are net of income from rent and service charges of £1,255,000.

Waterloo Station

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the economy over *(a)* five, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 20 years of integrating Waterloo International terminal into the domestic terminal. [297403]

Chris Mole: It is the Government's intention that the former Eurostar terminal at Waterloo is used to provide increased capacity for domestic passengers. The Department for Transport is in discussion with Network Rail and Stagecoach South West Trains to establish what would be the most cost-effective way to integrate Waterloo International terminal into the domestic station that maximises benefits for the short, medium and long term.

The former Eurostar terminal and platforms are also likely to be central to the wider redevelopment of Waterloo which would be a key project to transforming the station environment and accessibility, while also increasing capacity significantly. The Secretary of State has asked his station advisors to make early recommendations on the scope and options for the long-term development of Waterloo, including the former international terminal.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what reason the Waterloo International Terminal has been allowed to remain in the ownership of the British Rail (Residuary) Body. [298458]

Chris Mole: The former Eurostar terminal at Waterloo station is a vital strategic asset of the Department for Transport and is being held pending decisions on its future use as an operational rail facility. BRB (Residuary) Ltd. are holding the facility on behalf of the Department of Transport as the company has the relevant expertise in managing such assets.

TREASURY

Alcohol: Excise Duties

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the level of fraud in respect of duty on *(a)* beer, *(b)* wine, *(c)* spirits and *(d)* cider. [297957]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The most recent estimate of the spirits level of fraud was published by HMRC in "Measuring Indirect Tax Gaps—2008" in October 2008 and is available in the House of Commons Library.

The Department's most recent estimate of the level of fraud in beer for 2006-07 gives a range of between £270 million and £490 million in respect of duty. This is a provisional internal estimate that may be subject to revision.

Estimates for the level of fraud in wine and cider are not available.

Bank Services

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent discussions he has had with Lloyds Banking Group on competition in the retail banking sector; and if he will make a statement; [298841]

(2) what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* the Competition Commission have had on competition in the retail banking sector; and if he will make a statement; [298842]

(3) what discussions he has had with Lloyds Banking Group on divestments of its retail banking operations further to those announced on 3 November 2009; and if he will make a statement. [298843]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which indicators of competition in the UK retail banking sector his Department monitors; and if he will make a statement. [298844]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury has a departmental objective to support fair, stable and efficient financial markets. In pursuit of this objective the Department has regard to a range of quantitative and qualitative information including from the Office of Fair Trading, Financial Services Authority and other bodies.

Banks

Caroline Flint: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* financial and *(b)* due diligence checks will be undertaken in relation to any new entrant into the UK financial services market arising from the sale of branches or subsidiaries of RBS or Lloyds Banking Group. [298629]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The package of restructuring and other measures is now subject to agreement by the College of Commissioners. The Financial Services Authority (FSA) will scrutinise any potential purchasers of the divestments and, in doing so, consider the buyer's intention for the business. Any purchaser will have to satisfy the FSA as to the adequacy of its financial resources, the competency and experience of its leadership, the adequacy of its risk and control standards, and the long-term viability and sustainability of the entity as assessed by reference to its business plan.

Banks: Debts

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the level of indebtedness of *(a)* RBS, *(b)* Lloyds Banking Group and *(c)* Northern Rock is. [298247]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Details of the banks' liabilities can be found in their published accounts, available on their websites at:

http://www.investors.rbs.com/

http://www.lloydsbankinggroup.com/

http://companyinfo.northernrock.co.uk/

Banks: Yorkshire and the Humber

Caroline Flint: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the sale of subsidiaries of RBS and Lloyds Banking Group on employment in Doncaster and the Yorkshire region; [298627]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of the sale of subsidiaries of RBS and Lloyds Banking Group on retail lending and banking activities in Doncaster and the Yorkshire region. [298628]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government are confident that the proposed package of restructuring for RBS and Lloyds will increase competition throughout the UK retail and SME banking markets benefiting consumers, businesses and the wider economy, including Doncaster and the Yorkshire region.

Child Care Vouchers

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many companies in Slough constituency claimed tax and national insurance contribution exemption for childcare vouchers in the latest period for which information is available. [297905]

Mr. Timms: Companies are not required to make a tax return reporting the provision of childcare vouchers for use by their employees. As such HM Revenue and Customs does not hold information about which companies are providing childcare vouchers or in which constituency they are based.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the number of employees who have taken part in a childcare voucher scheme since the introduction of such schemes; and if he will make it his policy to collect data on employer-supported childcare. [298786]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs commissioned research in 2006 to collect data on employer supported child care, which was carried out by the National Centre for Social Research and is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/research-report23.htm.

This published research estimated that there were 174,000 employees using child care vouchers in late 2005.

Child Trust Fund

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children were eligible for a child trust fund account in each year since the policy was introduced. [298411]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The annual statistical information on child trust fund accounts can be viewed on HM Revenue and Custom's website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/statistical-report-2006.pdf

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/statistical-report-2007.pdf

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/statistical-report-2008.pdf

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/statistical-report-2009.pdf

Children: Day Care

Annette Brooke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the Exchequer of tax relief on employer-supported childcare has been in each year since the scheme's inception. [298469]

Mr. Timms: The estimated costs of employer supported child care were published in the Tax Ready Reckoner and Tax Reliefs supplementary document alongside the 2008 pre-Budget report, available at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr08_taxready reckoner_287.pdf.

Council Tax: Valuation

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1180W, on council tax: parking, how many domestic dwellings in each local authority in England, or the closest local administrative unit used, have been assigned the dwellinghouse coding for parking of *(a)* G1, *(b)* G2, *(c)* G3, *(d)* G4, *(e)* G5, *(f)* G6, *(g)* G7, *(h)* G8 and *(i)* G9 according to records held by the Valuation Office Agency. [298482]

Ian Pearson: The information requested is publicly available in the Freedom of Information Disclosure Log on the VOA's website.

Debts

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of personal debt in the economy; what estimate he has made of the likely level of personal debt in the economy in May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [298321]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Bank of England collects and publishes statistics on the level of personal debt. The full Bank of England dataset can be found at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/mfsd/iadb/
FromShowColumns.asp?Travel=NIx&SearchText=VTXC

The Government do not publish forecasts for personal debt.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department were employed on the management of freedom of information requests submitted to his Department in each year since 2005; and how much his Department spent on the management of such requests in each such year. [299130]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury has a central team of seven (full-time equivalent) that co-ordinates work on information rights. A substantial part of their work is managing FOI requests; however, the Treasury does not operate a time recording system that would enable costs for this element to be determined.

Economic Growth

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the British economy grew on average each year *(a)* in total and *(b)* per capita in the period (i) 1983 to 1987, (ii) 1987 to 1992, (iii) 1992 to 1997, (iv) 1997 to 2001, (v) 2001 to 2005 and (vi) 2005 to 2008. [298225]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Data on the UK economy is publicly available from the website of the independent Office for National Statistics (ONS). Calculations of GDP per capita are available online from international organisations such as the IMF and World Bank.

Economic Situation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the UK economy; and if he will make a statement. [298270]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government will publish updated forecasts for the UK and world economies in the pre-Budget report later this autumn, as is usual practice.

Equitable Life Assurance Society

Ben Chapman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make financial assistance available to pensioners in Wirral South constituency who have lost money as a result of their investments with Equitable Life. [297119]

Mr. Byrne: The Government have appointed Sir John Chadwick to advise on the relative losses suffered by policyholders and their impact. As I announced in the House on 21 October, the Government expect Sir John to submit his final advice by spring 2010. We will consider his advice as quickly as possible and announce a payment scheme that is practical to deliver and fair to both policyholders and taxpayers.

Financial Services: Regulation

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what reviews his Department has carried out of the role of the Financial Services Authority in identifying breaches and preventing losses to savers in respect of the conduct of regulated activities by industrial and provident societies in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the UK in the last three years. [297411]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Industrial and Provident Societies (IPSs) in Northern Ireland are registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act (Northern Ireland) 1969. In July 2009 the Treasury issued a 'Review of the Legislative Framework for Credit Unions and Industrial Provident Societies in Northern Ireland'. The Review recommended that the Northern Ireland authorities should consider what can be done to improve Northern Ireland legislation governing IPSs, with the aim of improving member information and governance.

In Great Britain, Industrial and Provident Societies are subject to the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965. The 'Review of the Legislative Framework' recommended that, in Great Britain, the Financial Services Authority and the sector should identify an appropriate approach to minimise the risk of money laundering and improve transparency between IPSs and their members.

The Review concluded by recommending that the Northern Ireland authorities, the Treasury and the FSA, working together to develop a unified regime that protects societies and their members, should achieve an integrated approach across the UK.

Government Assets

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the monetary value of the portfolio of non-financial assets the Government proposes to sell *(a)* when they were acquired by the Government and *(b)* at the time of the proposed sale. [296935]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* As I announced on 12 October, a portfolio of assets for sale, and assets where there is the potential for alternative ownership options, will be published in the coming months.

The publication of the value of Government assets ahead of any commercial negotiations would undermine the value for money of any disposal. Departmental and national accounts provide some details of the book values of Government assets.

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions officials of his Department had with local government officials on the proposed sale of Government assets. [296992]

Mr. Byrne: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Income Tax

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people are *(a)* in each income tax band and *(b)* paying no income tax in 2009-10. [298939]

Mr. Timms: Estimates for 2009-10 of the number of taxpayers by marginal rate of tax are shown in Table 2.1 "Number of individual income taxpayers", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/menu.htm

The information is based on the Survey of Personal Incomes of which 2006-07 is the latest available, and projected in line with Budget 2009 assumptions.

The estimated number of non-taxpayers can be found by subtracting the number of taxpayers from the latest population projection published on the Office for National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=8519

Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander

Mr. Gale: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to take steps to assist UK citizens who have lost funds invested in Kaupthing Singer, Isle of Man which were subsequently transferred to London. [298895]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Isle of Man (KSF IoM) is not a subsidiary of KSF in the UK, but of the Icelandic parent company. Oversight of KSF IoM is the responsibility of the Isle of Man's Financial Supervision Commission. Arrangements for depositors in KSF IoM are a matter for the Isle of Man Government.

Both KSF IoM and KSF UK are subject to insolvency proceedings in their respective jurisdictions.

Mortgages: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on the number and proportion of mortgage applications by residents of *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley which were granted in each of the last 24 months. [298109]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government do not hold this information. The Bank of England publishes data on mortgage approvals. These are available at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/li/current/index.htm

Northern Rock

Caroline Flint: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much Government lending to Northern Rock has been repaid to date. [298630]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Northern Rock published its third quarter trading statement on 4 November 2009. This reported that the gross loan outstanding to the Government stood at £14.5 billion at 30 September 2009. After deducting liquidity balances held with the Bank of England the net loan at 30 September 2009 stood at £10.9 billion. The gross and net loan outstanding at 31 December 2007 was £26.9 billion. To date, Northern Rock have repaid £12.4 billion and £16.0 billion in gross and net terms, respectively.

The Government announced in February of this year that in order to enable Northern Rock to undertake increased levels of new lending, the bank will be restructured so that the back book of mortgages are managed separately to its other business. The Government also announced at the time that they will increase the loan to Northern Rock and extend the repayment schedule as part of plans to restructure the company.

Following last month's state aid approval from the European Commission, the Government are working with the company to finalise the details of the restructuring, including the revised repayment schedule for the Government loan.

Public Expenditure: Northern Ireland

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been contributed from the Exchequer to EU programmes in Northern Ireland in each year since 2005. [297446]

Mr. Byrne: EU Programmes in Northern Ireland are funded by the European Commission and are paid by the EU to the Northern Ireland Executive. Since 2005 EU receipts have been treated as negative public expenditure, which offsets the spending of the receipts within the Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL). The effect of this is that the funds are fully additional to the DEL spending funded by the Exchequer and determined by the Barnett Formula.

Public Expenditure: South West

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much public funding has been allocated to *(a)* Cornwall and *(b)* the Isles of Scilly in each year since 1997. [297274]

Mr. Byrne: Public funding from central Government grants allocated to Cornwall county council and the council of the Isles of Scilly for the years 1997-98 to 2007-08 is set out in the following table.

		£000
	Cornwall	*Isles of Scilly*
1997-98	235,095	2,132
1998-99	248,609	2,107
1999-2000	273,730	2,215
2000-01	298,121	2,438
2001-02	327,356	2,815
2002-03	349,280	3,512
2003-04	386,681	3,533
2004-05	435,398	3,832
2005-06	453,576	4,117
2006-07	464,067	4,467
2007-08	499,465	4,877

The lowest level at which total public expenditure information is available is the region. Total identifiable expenditure on services in the South West can be found in the Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis 2009 (CM 7630). Please see the following link for the relevant chapters of PESA 2009:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pesa09_chapter9.pdf

Taxation

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what tax schemes have been closed as a result of the retrospective application of legislation since 1997. [298739]

Mr. Timms: Legislation enacted with retrospective effect (to a date before the announcement date) is rarely used. A separate record has only been kept since 2004.

Since December 2004 the following schemes have been closed by legislation enacted with retrospective effect:

Section 92 Finance Act 2006 (avoidance using options etc);

Section 58 Finance Act 2008 (UK residents and foreign partnerships);

Section 67 Finance Act 2009 (deductions for employee liabilities);

Section 68 Finance Act 2009 (employment loss relief); and

Section 61 and schedule 30 FA 2009 (Financial arrangements avoidance).

Taxation: Aviation

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the effect of increases in air passenger duty on small regional airports. [298940]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In line with Cabinet Office guidance, HMRC conducted an impact assessment of the new banding system and published it on its website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ria/apd-reform-ia.pdf

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue was received from *(a)* air passenger duty, *(b)* tax on insurance and *(c)* all indirect taxation in the latest period for which figures are available. [298941]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Receipts from air passenger duty, insurance premium tax and the total for indirect taxes are published on a monthly basis in the National Statistics Table 1.3a available from the HMRC website

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/table1-3a.xls

Taxation: Corporate Hospitality

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 783-84W, on taxation: corporate hospitality, when his Department plans to publish its guidance on businesses claiming tax back on corporate entertainment in lapdancing clubs referred to by the Minister for Women and Equality in media interviews in September 2009; and what steps his Department is taking to prevent the use of receipts which do not disclose the nature of the entertainment provided in order to reclaim VAT paid on corporate entertainment in lapdancing clubs. [298241]

Mr. Timms: As covered by my answer of 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 783-84W, HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) published guidance at

www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/bimmanual/BIM45000.htm

deals with the issue of how the tax system treats business entertainment expenses (including any incurred in lapdancing clubs).

VAT incurred by business in respect of corporate entertainment is not recoverable regardless of the nature of that entertainment. Guidance on that was published in HMRC Notice 700/65, Business entertainment, available at:

http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/channelsPortalWebApp.portal?_nfpb=;true&_pageLabel=pageVAT_ShowContent&id=HMCE_CL_000092&propertyType=document

Where a business seeks to recover VAT, HMRC insist that a VAT invoice is retained to evidence the tax paid. That invoice must in all circumstances contain a description sufficient to identify the goods and services supplied.

Wikimedia UK: Taxation

Stephen Pound: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what stage has been reached in the appeal lodged with HM Revenue and Customs by Wikimedia UK in respect of its application for charitable tax status. [298464]

Mr. Timms: I am not able to provide information about the affairs of individual taxpayers.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date the consultation on draft statutory guidance on social housing allocations for local authorities in England closed; how many responses to the consultation were received; if he will place in the Library a copy of each response; and if he will make a statement. [297695]

Mr. Ian Austin: The consultation period for the draft statutory allocations guidance closed on 23 October; over 130 responses have been received. A summary of the responses to consultation will be published on the Department's website within three months of the close of consultation. Individual responses will be made available on request, unless respondents have asked that they be treated as confidential.

Council Housing: Property Transfer

Mr. Neil Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have transferred housing to registered social landlords through large-scale voluntary transfers since 1997; how many dwellings have been so transferred in the period; and how much debt was written off as part of such transfers. [297191]

Mr. Ian Austin: Since 1997 there have been 226 transfers by 140 local authorities with 939,347 dwellings transferred. The amount of debt the Department has paid to the Public Works Loans Boards in respect of completed housing stock transfers to date is £4.124 billion.

Departmental Air Travel

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic flights within Great Britain officials from his Department made in 2008-09; and at what cost. [298744]

Barbara Follett: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fraud

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many employees of his Department and its predecessors were convicted of an offence of fraud in each of the last 10 years. [297037]

Barbara Follett: Our records, which do not go back further than 2003, show that, since that date two members of staff have committed fraud against the Department. Both were successfully prosecuted. Another member of staff was convicted of a fraud not connected with the Department's business.

Housing Associations: Insurance

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how long it takes on average for insurance claims to be processed by housing associations; [298495]

(2) what measures housing associations have in place to prevent insurance fraud; [298496]

(3) what recent guidelines his Department has issued in respect of insurance coverage and liabilities for housing associations; [298497]

(4) what his most recent estimate is of the total amount of liabilities for which housing associations are charged; and if he will make a statement; [298498]

(5) what total premium was paid by housing associations for insurance cover in each year since 1997; [298499]

(6) how many insurance claims were made by housing associations in each year since 1997; [298500]

(7) what recent consideration he has given to extending the liabilities covered by housing associations; and if he will make a statement; [298501]

(8) when he last discussed housing association insurance with representatives of housing associations; and if he will make a statement. [298502]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave him on 4 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1067-1068W.

The Government do not hold any information pertaining to insurance cover for the activities of housing associations. Social landlords will wish to ensure that they have appropriate arrangements for their circumstances.

Housing Corporation: Public Relations

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 678W, on the Housing Corporation: public relations, if he will place in the Library a copy of the article written by the Chairman of the Housing Corporation; and what the nature was of the consultancy work undertaken in respect of transition. [295859]

John Healey: I have placed a copy of the article written by the consultancy firm ACPO for the Chairman of the Housing Corporation in the Library of the House.

No further details are available on the nature of the consultancy work undertaken in respect of transition.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent by the Homes and Communities Agency Academy on *(a)* developing, *(b)* publicising and *(c)* providing continuing support for the foundation degree in sustainable communities offered by Salford University; and if he will make a statement. [298675]

John Healey: The development costs associated with the foundation degree in sustainable communities at Salford university are £1,980, covering the costs of the HCA's university adviser. The majority of the publicity has been covered by Salford university through their normal marketing and promotional channels, however the cost of a promotional video associated with Salford university was £1,681. The continued support costs are £5,000 for 2009-10. The total costs are therefore £8,661, which equates to a cost per person to date of £376.57. The foundation degree aims to develop the practical skills and values necessary for success in delivering regeneration and sustainable communities.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on the payment of backdated business rates in ports; and if he will make a statement. [297908]

Barbara Follett: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Great Grimsby (Mr. Mitchell) on 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2218-19W.

Since that date, the Department of Communities and Local Government has received further representations, from a trade association, and from two MPs, on behalf of businesses in Ports.

Non-Domestic Rates: Public Houses

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a public house which has diversified to offer *(a)* post office or banking facilities and *(b)* limited retail sales, will have the income from such activities taken into account, when the Valuation Office Agency rates the hereditament for the 2010 business rates revaluation; and whether such facilities may act as a material consideration in affecting the rateable value. [295867]

Barbara Follett: The contribution of any ancillary activities to the effective use of a property as measured by the rental market is used as the reference point for the rating assessment. Circumstances will vary, but unless the ancillary activity yields significant potential for additional maintainable trade in its own right, it is unlikely to result in an increased rating assessment on the pub.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring that the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases. This is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the 2010 non-domestic rate revaluation is to be revenue-neutral *(a)* in the first year of operation and *(b)* over the five-year rating cycle. [294550]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing on 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 752W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what ways the Valuation Office Agency's methodology and guidance for valuing car parking spaces has changed since May 1997. [294090]

Barbara Follett: There have been no significant changes since May 1997 in the Valuation Office Agency's methodology and guidance for valuing car spaces, which is set out in Rating Manual Volume 5 Section 200 for Car Parks and in the individual practice note issued for each five yearly revaluation. The methodology has remained one of Rental Comparison by parking space. Current and earlier practice notes can be compared on the Valuation Office Agency's web site at:

www.voa.gov.uk

Playing Fields: Planning Permission

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to update Planning Policy Guidance 17, with particular reference to provisions for playing fields. [297911]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 5 November 2009]*: As part of the reform of the planning system, we intend to consolidate and streamline planning policy on open space, and sport and recreation (PPG17); biodiversity and geodiversity (PPS9); and landscape and soil (part of PPS7). We aim to consult on our proposals by the end of the year.

Property Development: Green Belt

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what his policy is on the provision of open spaces in proposed developments on green belt land; [297226]

(2) what requirements must be satisfied before planning approval is given for development on green belt land. [297307]

Mr. Ian Austin: Planning policy guidance note 17, Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, states that local planning authorities should undertake rigorous assessments of the needs of their communities for open space. This enables them to set their own open space standards which take into account local circumstances, including the extent of development. It is for local authorities to determine how much open space should be provided as part of a new development, whether in the green belt or elsewhere.

Under our plan-led system, all development in the countryside is strictly controlled, but in green belt there is an additional restraint—the presumption against inappropriate development. This is explained in planning policy guidance note 2, "Green Belts". Only where the harm that inappropriate development may cause to the green belt would be clearly outweighed by other considerations, and where there are very special circumstances to justify the development, should permission be granted by the planning authority.

Refuges: Domestic Violence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the number of victims of domestic violence who are in refuge accommodation. [298319]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department does not collect this information and it has not made an estimate of the numbers in refuge accommodation.

Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the average length of *(a)* social and *(b)* private domestic tenancies in each of the last five years. [297711]

Mr. Ian Austin: Estimates of the median length of time that social and private renters had occupied their current accommodation to date for each of the years 2003-04 to 2007-08 are provided in the following table. These estimates are based on data from the Survey of English Housing. Reliable data on the average length of completed tenancies is not available.

The median is provided as it is a better indicator than the mean/average due to the small number of very long tenancies which affect the mean.

Median length of rental tenancies to date, England, 2003-04 to 2007-08

	Social renters	*Private renters*
2003-04	7.5	1.6
2004-05	7.4	1.5
2005-06	7.7	1.6
2006-07	7.8	1.7
2007-08	7.8	1.5

Source:
Survey of English Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the number of social housing tenants in each local authority area who have requested an exchange in the last 12 months. [297824]

Mr. Ian Austin: The number of requests for exchanges is not collected centrally.

There were 14,300 local authority dwellings let through mutual exchanges between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008, reported through the 2007-08 Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA). The 2008-09 HSSA will be published on 26 November, 2009. Information on registered social landlord dwellings let through mutual exchanges is not collected centrally.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social housing tenants left the sector for accommodation in *(a)* the private rented sector and *(b)* owner occupancy in each year since 1997. [297965]

Mr. Ian Austin: Estimates of the number of social renting households that moved into private renting and owner occupation in each year since 1997 are provided in the following table. These estimates are based on data from the Survey of English Housing.

Movement out of the social rented sector[1], England

thousand

	Moved into owner occupation[2]	*Moved into private renting*
1997	n/a	55
1998	87	50
1999	102	52
2000	102	54
2001	103	58
2002	96	53
2003	99	48
2004	95	46
2005	76	47
2006	51	51
2007	33	47

[1] Due to small sample sizes, figures are based on a three-year rolling average. 2007 represents the average for the period 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08.
[2] Includes purchases by sitting tenants.
Source:
Survey of English Housing.

Social Rented Housing: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the provision of social housing in Chorley; and if he will make a statement. [296912]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* In 2007 the council transferred its stock to Chorley Community Housing. Earlier this year Chorley Community Housing carried out a resident survey which indicated very high levels of satisfaction.

The number of households on the housing waiting list in Chorley has been reduced from 1,897 in April 2007 to 1,370 in April 2008; this represents a 27.8 per cent. reduction.

Additional social housing is being provided through the National Affordable Housing Programme (NAHP). So far Chorley has been allocated a provisional £9.58 million under the 2008-11 Programme to deliver an estimated 252 new affordable homes, of which 118 will be for social renting and 134 for low cost home ownership.

Social Rented Housing: Foreigners

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answers of 16 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1801W, and to the hon. Member for Hertsmere, column 1800W, on social rented housing: foreigners, how many new *(a)* local authority social lettings and *(b)* registered social landlord lettings in England were made to foreign nationals from (i) EU member states and (ii) non-EU member states in (A) 2006-07 and (B) 2007-08. [297470]

John Healey: Information on the number of foreign national households receiving social housing is collected through the Continuous Recording of Letting form (CORE). Historically CORE has only collected information from registered social landlords. An increasing number of local authorities are now providing information through this process as well, but there are still some gaps in the data. Information on lettings to foreign nationals can only be supplied in terms of European economic area (EEA) countries and not EU member states. EEA countries also include Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

A question on nationality was first introduced to the form for the 2006-07 data collection period. For 2006-07, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Hertsmere (Mr. Clappison) on 16 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1800W. For local authorities, a split between lettings to EEA and non-EEA foreign nationals is not available.

Estimates for 2007-08 are published on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1228921.xls

These are based on an improved imputation method to adjust for missing local authority data.

Social Rented Housing: Rents

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will provide guidance on the determination of rents to those housing associations whose rent reviews are linked to the retail price index. [298238]

Mr. Ian Austin: In July the Government launched a consultation on draft directions to the Tenant Services Authority (TSA), the new independent social housing regulator. The Government proposed to direct the TSA to set a standard on rent levels for registered social landlords that would apply from 2010-11 onwards.

The consultation closed on 9 October and we are currently considering the responses received. We will publish our final decisions shortly.

Temporary Accommodation

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities apply a flat rate charge to tenants of temporary accommodation; and what the amount of that charge was in each such local authority. [296131]

Mr. Ian Austin: We do not keep a central record of the charges local authorities make for temporary accommodation.

Waste Disposal: Planning Permission

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many waste handling facility planning applications have been *(a)* approved and *(b)* rejected by local authorities since 2005. [297567]

Mr. Ian Austin: The number of waste handling facility planning applications that have been approved by local authorities since 2005 is set out in the following table.

Number of waste planning applications that have been decided and granted since 2005

Period	*Decisions*	*Granted*
2005-06	1,200	1,076
2006-07	1,107	991
2007-08	1,050	969
2008-09	1,045	955

Note:

The applications granted in the year are not necessarily the same facilities for which applications have been made in the period.

Source:

Communities and Local Government, Development Control Annual Publication.

The number of applications refused is not published.

CABINET OFFICE

Childbirth

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many live births there were to mothers in each income decile in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [298286]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your request on what information the Office for National Statistics holds on the number of live births there were to mothers in each income decile in (a) 2007 and (b) the most recent year for which figures are available. (298286)

In England and Wales parental income is not collected at birth registration. I am, therefore, unable to provide you with the statistics you have requested.

Civil Servants: Compensation

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what discussions she has had with trades unions on proposed changes to the Civil Service Compensation Scheme; and if she will make a statement; [298503]

(2) what legal advice on employment law she took before making proposals to change the Civil Service Compensation Scheme; and if she will make a statement. [298504]

Paul Holmes: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what representations her Department has received in response to the proposals for the Civil Service Compensation Scheme contained within Fairness for All; and if she will make a statement; [298740]

(2) what account she took of other severance arrangements in the public sector when proposing changes to severance arrangements in the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. [298882]

Tessa Jowell: The Prime Minister's statement on 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 60WS, announced the Government's intention to reform the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. My officials held discussions with the trade unions and consulted legal advisers before we brought forward proposals on 31 July. In developing these proposals we took account of the range of terms available elsewhere in the public sector. Alongside the Cabinet Secretary and officials I met with the Council of Civil Service Unions on 22 September 2009.

The Cabinet Office has received around 18,000 comments on the Fairness for All proposals, from civil servants, civil service unions, employers and others. We are considering the points made and will publish our response in due course.

Death: Drugs

Chris Grayling: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight of 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 687-88W, on drugs: de[illegible], what the equivalent figures to those contained in Table 1 were in each year since 1997. [298163]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight of 2 November 2009, Official Report, columns 687-88W, on drugs: death, what the equivalent figures to those contained in Table 1 were in each year since 1997. (298163)

Figures provided in the previous Answer were the number of drug misuse deaths of persons aged (a) below 16, (b) 16 to 18, (c) 19 to 25 and (d) over 25 years of age, in England and Wales, for 2008 (the latest year available).

Drugs classified under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971) are termed 'controlled substances', and unlawful possession of a controlled substance is illegal, as is possession with intent to supply. Lawful possession of a controlled substance would include when the drug was in the possession of a person it had been prescribed to. It is not possible to ascertain from information collected at death certification whether a drug was obtained lawfully or not.

The table attached provides the number of drug misuse deaths of persons aged (a) below 16, (b) 16 to 18, (c) 19 to 25 and (d) over 25 years of age, in England and Wales, for the years 1997 to 2008.

Table 1: Numbers of deaths related to drug misuse[1], by age group, England and Wales[2], 1997-2008[3]

Deaths (persons)

Year	*Below 16*	*16-18*	*19-25*	*Over 25*
1997	8	51	356	897
1998	4	57	318	1,078
1999	6	51	313	1,258
2000	2	46	297	1,259
2001	4	43	335	1,424
2002	6	44	317	1,246
2003	5	30	240	1,157
2004	4	24	248	1,219
2005	8	19	222	1,359
2006	6	23	222	1,322
2007	4	21	204	1,375
2008	9	25	206	1,498

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1997-2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) from 2001 onwards. Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (shown in Box 1 below) and where a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was mentioned on the death certificate.

[2] Figures for England and Wales includes non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1

Description	*ICD-9*	*ICD-10*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)	292, 304, 305.2-305.9	F11-F16, F18-F19
Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	E850-E858	X40-X44
Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	E950.0-E950.5	X60-X64
Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	E962.0	X85
Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent	E980.0-E980.5	Y10-Y14

Downing Street Budget

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the planned budget for the *(a)* Cabinet Office and *(b)* Downing Street budget, in cash terms is in each of the next three years. [290155]

Tessa Jowell: The planned budget for the Cabinet Office for 2010-11 is set out in Public Expenditure Table 1 on page 119 of the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09. Allocations for the individual units within the Cabinet Office have not yet been set.

Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 set the budget for the financial years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11. The budgets for 2011-12 and 2012-13 will be set during the next spending review.

Government Departments: Data Protection

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what areas in which improvement might be made in government information security policy her Department has identified since 1997. [288868]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 21 July 2009]*: Since 1997, my Department has identified a number of significant areas of improvement made in information security policy across government. The Office of the e-Envoy was established in 1999 within the Cabinet Office and produced security policy guidance on e-government development. Sir Edmund Burton's 2001 review into information security policy provision across government recommended a central policy unit be established at the centre to lead on information security policy for government. The Central Sponsor for Information Assurance (CSIA) was duly established in 2003. CSIA published the refreshed National Information Assurance Strategy in 2007 outlining the Government's strategic approach to improve professionalism, capability, awareness and education in information security and assurance.

In June 2008 the Cabinet Secretary published the Data Handling Report (DHR) on the security of cross-government data handling procedures which identified key areas for improvement in data security and outlined specific measures that Departments must take. In addition, the Security Policy Framework (SPF) was introduced in December 2008 to replace and update the Manual of Protective Security which had been in place since 1995 and is now the sole source upon which all departmental security policy should be based. These recent measures further reinforce the Government's strong commitment to review and address information assurance concerns and to the securing of personal data held by public authorities.

Honours: Banks

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which individuals have been awarded an honour for services to banking since 1984. [297099]

Tessa Jowell: Short citations giving brief details of the reasons for awards to those receiving honours in the Queen's Birthday and New Year's Honours Lists are published in the London Gazette.

Ministers

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer from the Secretary of State for Defence of 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 576, and the answer of 28 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 272-73, what the evidential basis was for the statement made by the Secretary of State for Defence that the Government had not amended the ranking of ministerial offices; and if she will make a statement. [298606]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I have been asked to reply.

There has been no downgrading of the Ministry of Defence. The List of Ministerial Responsibilities, published by the Cabinet Office, is an administrative document which lists Departments in alphabetical order. The document also lists Cabinet Ministers on the basis of the date they are appointed to Cabinet.

National School of Government

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which companies purchased consultancy services from the National School of Government in 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [287747]

Angela E. Smith: This is a matter for the National School of Government. I have asked the principal and chief executive to respond.

Letter from Rod Clark, dated 3 November 2009:

> In the Written Ministerial Statement to the House on 9 January 2007 (Official Report Col 5WS), the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Pat McFadden MP) announced that the National School of Government was now a Non Ministerial Department. Consequently, the Minister for the Cabinet Office has asked me to reply to your Parliamentary Questions about the National School of Government.
>
> The National School has income from consultancy of £2,616,000 in 2008-09 out of total income of £29,368,000. (PQ 287739).
>
> The National School does the large majority of its business with the public sector. In 2008-09 the only consultancy work we carried out for private sector companies was with Liberata UK Limited and Logica.
>
> Copies of the table showing the full list of organisations for which we did consultancy work in the year will be placed in the house Library.
>
> In addition I would note that the Department for International Development commissions the School to carry out international work as part of the UK aid programme and thus some of the work paid for by DfID was carried out for foreign governments. (PQ 287747).

Poverty

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate the UK Statistics Authority has made of the number of households in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency which have left poverty since 1997. [297144]

Helen Goodman: I have been asked to reply.

Poverty statistics, published in the households below average income series, only allow a breakdown of the overall number of people in relative poverty at Government office region level or for inner or outer London. Therefore, information for the Tees Valley, or Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency is not available.

Estimates of the number of households who have left poverty are not available, as each year different households are surveyed to produce low income statistics in the households below average series. However, I am able to provide information about the net change in the number of households with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income over the period requested for England and the north-east.

Between 1997-98 and 2007-08, the number of households with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income in England rose by 100,000 before housing costs and fell by 400,000 after housing costs. Over the same period, the total number of households in England rose by 1.4 million.

For the north-east, three years of data have had to be combined due to survey volatility. Between 1997-98 to 1999-2000 and 2005-06 to 2007-08, the number of households with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income in the north-east stayed at the same level before housing costs, but fell by 100,000 after housing costs. Over the same period, the total number of households in the north-east stayed at the same level.

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on households below average income, sourced from the Family Resources Survey. The Family Resources Survey is available in the Library.

2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.

3. The reference period for households below average income figures are single financial years. For the north-east, three years of data have had to be combined due to survey volatility.

4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

5. For the households below average income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) equivalisation factors.

6. Change in numbers of households in low income and overall have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand.

Vacancies

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the latest estimate is of the number of job vacancies in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [298267]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the latest estimate is of the number of job vacancies in the UK. (298267)

The Office for National Statistics estimates the number of vacancies from the Vacancy Survey for the United Kingdom.

The latest, seasonally adjusted estimate is that there were 434,000 vacancies in the United Kingdom over the 3 month period from July to September 2009.

Teenage Fathers

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information the Office of National Statistics holds on the number of teenage fathers in each of the last five years. [297959]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your request on what information the Office for National Statistics holds on the number of teenage fathers in each of the last five years. (297959)

The Office for National Statistics publishes figures compiled from data collected at birth registration. Figures on the number of births registered to teenage fathers in England and Wales each year can be found in the annual publication FMI Birth Statistics:

www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5768

Volumes covering the five years up to 2007 are currently available and the 2008 volume is provisionally due for release in December 2009.

Table 3.4 in each volume of FMI Birth Statistics shows the number of live births by age of father (single years of age) for births within marriage and births jointly registered by both parents. In 2007, for example, there were 590 live births registered within marriage to fathers aged under 20 in England and Wales and 12,994 live births outside marriage jointly registered to fathers under 20.

Please note that information on father's age is not available for births registered solely by the mother. Therefore the number of births registered to fathers aged under 20 (within marriage and jointly registered outside marriage) does not represent the total number of births to teenage fathers in England and Wales.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Social Fund: Working Tax Credit

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will make it her policy to extend access to the social fund to those on working tax credit; and if she will make a statement. [296861]

Helen Goodman: There are no plans at present to extend access to the discretionary social fund to those in receipt of working tax credit. However, people in receipt of working tax credit have access to crisis loans if they have insufficient resources to meet their immediate short-term needs.

People in receipt of working tax credit that includes a disability element or who are also in receipt of the highest rate of child tax credit are eligible to apply for funeral payments and sure start maternity grants available through the regulated social fund.

Attendance Allowance: St Albans

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in attendance allowance to residents of St Albans constituency in each of the last five years. [297534]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the table.

Attendance allowance expenditure in St Albans parliamentary constituency

	Cash	2009-10 prices
2004-05	4.2	4.7
2005-06	4.6	5.0
2006-07	4.8	5.1
2007-08	5.0	5.2
2008-09	5.4	5.4

Notes:

1. Figures are in £ million and rounded to the nearest £100,000.

2. Tables containing benefit expenditure by benefit, departmental strategic objective, local authority and parliamentary constituency can be found at the following link and a copy has been placed in the Library:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/medium_term.asp

Source:

DWP Statistical and Accounting Data.

Carer's Allowance

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans her Department has for the future of the carer's allowance; and if she will make a statement. [298188]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Edinburgh, North and Leith (Mark Lazarowicz) on 28 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 355-56W.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* the Child Support Agency and *(b)* the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission have outstanding in child support payments; and by how many people these sums are owed. [292508]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much *(a)* the Child Support Agency and *(b)* the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission have outstanding in child support payments; and by how many people these sums are owed. [292508]

The information requested is provided in the attached table which shows the amount of arrears owed by non-resident parents (NRPs) to the Secretary of State (SoS) and the parent with care (PWC) and the number of NRPs the arrears are owed by.

Arrears outstanding: September 2009

	Total		SoS		PWC	
	CS2	*CSCS*	*CS2*	*CSCS*	*CS2*	*CSCS*
Number of NRPs	678,500	308,300	353,200	173,600	586,800	205,700
Arrears (£ billion)	1.98	1.89	0.85	1.04	1.13	0.86

Notes:

1. The Child Support Agency operates cases under two computer systems, CSCS and CS2.
2. The breakdown of non resident parents (NRPs) with outstanding arrears owed to Secretary of State (SoS) and Parent with Care (PwC) will be greater than the total number of non resident parents with arrears as some NRPs will owe money to both SoS and PWC.
3. In the information provided some cases have been excluded where the parent with care owes money. These cases are accounted for in Agency arrears figures, including those used in the Agency's Quarterly Summary of Statistics, which will therefore differ from figures in this response.

Cold Weather Payments: St Albans

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cold weather payments have been made to residents of St Albans constituency in each year since 2003. [297592]

Helen Goodman: The St Albans constituency is currently linked to three weather stations. The postcode districts in St Albans constituency and the associated weather station for each year are shown in the following table.

Postcode district	*Weather station*	*Years*
AL1-4	Andrewsfield	2002-03 onwards
HP3	Bracknell	2002-03
HP3	High Wycombe	2003-04 onwards
WD2, 4-5, 7, 25	Heathrow	2002-03 onwards

The numbers of times cold weather payments have been triggered at these weather stations in each year since 2002-03 are given in the table.

Cold weather payment triggers at each weather station

	Andrewsfield	*Bracknell*	*High Wycombe*	*Heathrow*
2002-03	1	1	[1]—	0
2003-04	0	[1]—	0	0
2004-05	0	[1]—	0	0
2005-06	0	[1]—	0	0
2006-07	0	[1]—	0	0
2007-08	0	[1]—	0	0
2008-09	3	[1]—	3	1

[1] Denotes not applicable: the weather station was not used in the cold weather payment scheme in that year.

Source: DWP records.

It is not possible to give the estimated number of payments made in 2002-03 and 2008-09 to residents of St Albans constituency as this information is not available at constituency level but by weather station only (and the above weather stations cover a wider area than just this constituency).

Council Tax Benefit

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid out in council tax benefit as a proportion of council tax receipts in each year since 1997. [297211]

Helen Goodman: The available information on council tax benefit expenditure is in the following table.

Council tax benefit expenditure, by country since 1997 in cash terms

£ million, cash

	England	*Wales*	*Scotland*	*Great Britain*
1997-98	2,014	94	287	2,395
1998-99	2,046	103	303	2,452
1999-2000	2,096	108	307	2,511
2000-01	2,146	119	310	2,575
2001-02	2,246	124	316	2,686
2002-03	2,381	131	322	2,834
2003-04	2,744	142	337	3,223
2004-05	3,039	160	358	3,557
2005-06	3,230	176	368	3,774
2006-07	3,386	184	373	3,943
2007-08	3,468	189	366	4,023

Note:

Includes all expenditure whether funded by central or local government.

Source:

Local Authority Council Tax Benefit subsidy claims

Council tax receipts in England are a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government; in Scotland they are a matter for the Scottish Parliament; and in Wales they are a matter for the National Assembly for Wales.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of households in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area were in receipt of council tax benefit in each of the last three years. [297253]

Helen Goodman: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in *(a)* private, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* registered social landlord rented homes were in receipt of (i) housing and (ii) council tax benefit in each region in each year since 1997. [297254]

Helen Goodman: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in each region were in receipt of council tax benefit in each year since 1997. [297290]

Helen Goodman: The available information is in the following tables.

Number of households receiving council tax benefit by Government Office Region in Great Britain: May 1997 to May 2009

	May 1997	*May 1998*	*May 1999*	*May 2000*	*May 2001*	*May 2002*	*May 2003*
Great Britain	5,498,250	5,325,660	5,166,070	4,830,060	4,673,370	4,601,730	4,627,780
North East	333,100	321,980	316,160	301,800	296,110	289,750	288,820
North West	790,900	764,200	735,230	690,890	658,710	649,100	639,210
Yorkshire and The Humber	524,430	507,130	494,770	454,910	437,500	428,430	434,520
East Midlands	359,650	344,010	336,800	316,180	305,450	288,990	296,330
West Midlands	538,660	524,940	505,820	474,790	463,370	458,530	462,340
East	408,580	390,820	377,670	353,800	341,240	335,910	342,330
London	759,720	728,260	692,540	628,650	607,160	615,320	633,530
South East	525,200	500,740	480,300	448,720	431,710	424,700	432,000
South West	385,960	370,780	354,930	338,910	326,180	320,080	321,860
Wales	287,000	282,680	277,240	267,200	263,930	260,290	257,440
Scotland	585,050	590,130	594,610	554,230	542,000	530,640	519,390

	May 2004	*May 2005*	*May 2006*	*May 2007*	*November 2008*	*May 2009*
Great Britain	4,800,220	4,959,690	5,049,970	5,076,940	5,152,270	5,428,230
North East	291,340	294,480	294,770	294,630	296,580	309,980
North West	662,830	676,150	679,830	682,560	685,800	712,430
Yorkshire and The Humber	436,650	448,750	457,810	460,700	464,280	491,470
East Midlands	309,810	324,080	334,860	336,400	349,430	375,020
West Midlands	468,410	482,030	499,200	503,850	514,480	544,370
East	357,400	371,370	383,960	391,350	405,300	429,980
London	672,070	708,440	717,610	724,440	728,320	751,040
South East	457,360	481,010	497,190	502,220	520,140	556,400
South West	337,770	354,720	365,610	368,860	377,750	406,240
Wales	266,870	274,800	282,290	282,250	289,440	304,000
Scotland	539,710	543,870	536,850	529,680	520,760	547,300

Notes:
1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures may not sum due to rounding.
4. Council Tax Benefit figures exclude any Single Adult Rebate cases.

Sources:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. taken in May 1997 to May 2007, and Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) for November 2008 and May 2009. For an understanding of improvements in methodology for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit caseload National Statistics, please visit:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/Methodology_revision_webpage.pdf

Credit Unions

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in which local authority areas credit unions and similar organisations have received funding from the Growth Fund in all rounds of funding to date. [295491]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* The information has been placed in the House of Commons Library. It provides details of local authority areas where Growth Fund contracted organisations, including Credit Unions and Community Development Finance Institutions, are located.

Over 184,000 people have benefited from affordable loans with coverage extending beyond named local authority boundaries.

Growth Fund is focused on the areas of highest financial exclusion and an extra £18.75 million from the April budget is helping us reach more of these areas and help more people.

Crisis Loans

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many crisis loans in each of the last 24 months were for *(a)* living expenses, *(b)* items and *(c)* living expenses and items; and if she will make a statement. [298850]

Helen Goodman: The information requested is not available.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on hire vehicles in each of the last five financial years. [291509]

Jim Knight: Information is not available for 2004-05 or 2005-06. The amount spent on the hire of vehicles in the last three years is as follows:

	£ million
2006-07	1.5
2007-08	1.5

	£ million
2008-09	2.3

Please note that these figures do not include use of the Government Car Service.

The increase in hire costs of £0.8 million is offset by a reduction of £3.6 million in 2008-09 of personal car costs, reflecting a policy to reduce personal car use.

The figures provided should be read in the context of a Department of over 100,000 staff operating from over 1,000 office locations across the country.

Employment Support Allowance: Autism

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department has taken to ensure that autistic people are informed about entitlement to employment support allowance. [295219]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department is working with a wide range of organisations, including the Department of Health and the National Autistic Society, to identify ways in which its services can be improved for people with autism. In particular, the Department is working with both organisations following the recent consultation, led by the Department of Health, 'A better future: a consultation on a future strategy for adults with autistic spectrum conditions' and the publication on 15 October 2009 of the Public Accounts Committee report 'Supporting people with autism through adulthood'. Both these publications make wide-ranging recommendations and formal responses to both will be made in due course.

Jobcentre Plus, an Executive Agency of the Department for Work and Pensions, delivers services to a wide range of customers, including those with autism. Disability Employment Advisers within Jobcentres have received formal training which includes autism interview skills and all Jobcentres have access to their services.

Employment: Autism

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of people with autism are in employment in Birmingham; [296202]

(2) what assessment she has made of levels of access to employment for adults with autism; and if she will make a statement. [296203]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not available.

Employment: Lone Parents

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents with school-age children have moved from welfare into work *(a)* in the Doncaster local authority area and *(b)* in England in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [298655]

Helen Goodman: The available information is in the following table:

Estimate of income support lone parents with school-aged children who moved from welfare to work in a recent five-year period

	Doncaster local area	England
2004-05	460	51,500
2005-06	440	54,000
2006-07	400	50,600
2007-08	420	54,700
2008-09	460	59,100

Notes:

1. The England figures include Doncaster. 2. The data includes only those lone parents who leave income support (IS) into employment.

3. The data excludes lone parents who move into employment but remain on benefit.

4. School-aged children are taken to be those children aged 5 to 15.

Source:

Estimates based on Department for Work and Pensions benefits administrative data and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs P45 employment data.

Housing Benefit

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of households in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area was in receipt of housing benefit in each of the last three years. [297257]

Helen Goodman: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to publish the results of her Department's consultation on changes to the local housing allowance. [297402]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* The Department consulted on proposals to remove the up to £15 weekly housing benefit excess that customers can receive over and above their contractual rent under the local housing allowance arrangements. In addition to the consultation carried out by the Department, the Social Security Advisory Committee also carried out a consultation. We are considering carefully the responses to the consultation and the recommendations made by the Social Security Advisory Committee, and will announce our response in due course.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of housing benefit rent rebates was in *(a)* England and *(b)* London in (i) 1980, (ii) 1990, (iii) 1995 and (iv) in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [299117]

Helen Goodman: The available information is in the following table:

Housing benefit rent rebate expenditure

		£ million
	England	London
1980-81	2,306	—
1990-91	2,709	—
1995-96	4,537	1,149
2003-04	4,220	1,317
2004-05	4,373	1,480
2005-06	4,419	1,579

Housing benefit rent rebate expenditure

		£ million
	England	*London*
2006-07	4,505	1,671
2007-08	4,579	1,742

Notes:
1. Figures include all rent rebate expenditure, whether funded by central or local government.
2. Figures are in millions of pounds.
3. Figures are in cash terms.
4. Information for London is not available for 1989-90 and 1990-91.

Source:
Local authority subsidy claims.

Housing Benefit: Council Tax Benefit

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* council tax benefit recipients were (i) of working age and (ii) elderly in each year since 1997. [297210]

Helen Goodman: The available information is in the tables.

Number and proportion of housing benefit recipients by working/pension age: Great Britain May 1997-May 2003

			Percentage of recipients aged	
	Aged 60 and over	*Aged under 60*	*60 and over*	*Under 60*
May 1997	1,853,000	2,786,000	39.9	60.1
May 1998	1,826,000	2,649,000	40.8	59.2
May 1999	1,769,000	2,544,000	41.0	59.0
May 2000	1,693,000	2,340,000	42.0	58.0
May 2001	1,664,000	2,211,000	42.9	57.1
May 2002	1,627,000	2,186,000	42.7	57.3
May 2003	1,598,000	2,198,000	42.1	57.9

Number and percentage of housing benefit recipients by working/pension age: Great Britain May 2004-May 2007

			Percentage of recipients aged	
	Aged 60 and over	*Aged under 60*	*60 and over*	*Under 60*
May 2004	1,550,790	2,328,630	40.0	60.0
May 2005	1,518,010	2,438,800	38.4	61.6
May 2006	1,491,060	2,498,970	37.4	62.6
May 2007	1,495,140	2,536,670	37.1	62.9

Number and percentage of housing benefit recipients by working/pension age: Great Britain November 2008-May 2009

			Percentage of recipients aged	
	Aged 60 and over	*Aged under 60*	*60 and over*	*Under 60*
November 2008	1,512,650	2,638,680	36.3	63.3
May 2009	1,522,930	2,854,230	34.6	64.8

Number and proportion of council tax benefit recipients by working/pension age: Great Britain May 1997-May 2003

			Percentage of recipients aged	
	Aged 60 and over	*Aged under 60*	*60 and over*	*Under 60*
May 1997	2,646,000	2,853,000	48.1	51.9
May 1998	2,614,000	2,712,000	49.1	50.9
May 1999	2,542,000	2,624,000	49.2	50.8
May 2000	2,419,000	2,411,000	50.1	49.9
May 2001	2,403,000	2,270,000	51.4	48.6
May 2002	2,362,000	2,240,000	51.3	48.7
May 2003	2,357,000	2,271,000	50.9	49.1

Number and proportion of council tax benefit recipients by working/pension age: Great Britain May 2004-May 2007

			Percentage of recipients aged	
	Aged 60 and over	*Aged under 60*	*60 and over*	*Under 60*
May 2004	2,406,780	2,393,440	50.1	49.9
May 2005	2,444,610	2,515,090	49.3	50.7
May 2006	2,470,760	2,579,210	48.9	51.1
May 2007	2,519,820	2,557,120	49.6	50.4

Number and proportion of council tax benefit recipients by working/pension age: Great Britain November 2008-May 2009

			Percentage of recipients aged	
	Aged 60 and over	*Aged under 60*	*60 and over*	*Under 60*
November 2008	2,542,440	2,600,860	49.3	50.5

Number and proportion of council tax benefit recipients by working/pension age: Great Britain November 2008-May 2009

	Aged 60 and over	Aged under 60	Percentage of recipients aged 60 and over	Under 60
May 2009	2,564,580	2,822,800	47.2	52.0

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. Information for 1997-2003 is based on a 1 per cent. sample and is therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
3. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
4. Figures for 1997-2003 have been rounded to the nearest thousand. Figures for 2004-2009 have been rounded to the nearest ten.
5. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
6. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
7. Council tax benefit figures exclude any single adult rebate cases.

Sources:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System, Annual 1 per cent. sample, taken from May 1997-May 2003; Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. taken in May 2004-May 2007: and Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) for May 2009 taken from table 8 and table 14 of publication at
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/HBCTB19082009.xls

For an understanding of improvements in methodology for housing benefit and council tax benefit case load National Statistics, please visit:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/
Methodology_revision_ webpage.pdf

Local Housing Allowance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of local housing allowance in each local authority area. [298412]

Helen Goodman: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many responses she has received to the consultation document Changes to the local housing allowance: consultation on draft regulations. [298648]

Helen Goodman: The Department for Work and Pensions consulted over the summer on proposals to remove the up to £15 weekly excess that customers can receive over and above their contractual rent under the local housing allowance arrangements. In addition, the Social Security Advisory Committee also carried out a consultation. The overall number of responses to both consultations amounted to 38 of which 24 were specific to the Department for Work and Pensions.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many local housing allowance claimants receive the maximum excess payment of £15. [298650]

Helen Goodman: This information is not available.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the cost to local authorities of administering the proposed withdrawal of excess payments to local housing allowance claimants. [298651]

Helen Goodman: The Department has not undertaken a specific exercise to identify the costs of implementing this proposal to local authorities. However, local authorities are normally expected to absorb the cost of such amendments.

Members: Pensions

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Pension Protection Fund Levy has received contributions from the Parliamentary Pension Scheme since 2004. [294226]

Angela Eagle: The Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund is not an eligible occupational pension scheme for the purposes of qualification for the Pension Protection Fund and therefore does not pay the pension protection levy.

New Deal for Lone Parents

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any financial penalty applies to claimants in respect of the New Deal for Lone Parents if the interviewer does not consider the interview was satisfactory. [296764]

Helen Goodman: If a lone parent agrees to take advantage of the support available via the new deal for lone parents they will be invited to a series of non-mandatory meetings with their personal adviser to discuss what they will need to do and the support available to them, to help them into work. Non-attendance or non-participation at these meetings, or non-compliance with the actions agreed, does not result in a financial sanction to benefit.

Pension Credit

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Derbyshire and *(c)* West Derbyshire received pension credit in each year since its inception. [297977]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is in the following table.

Households in receipt of pension credit

	Great Britain	Derbyshire county	West Derbyshire parliamentary constituency
November 2003	2,084,700	25,700	2,470

Households in receipt of pension credit

	Great Britain	Derbyshire county	West Derbyshire parliamentary constituency
February 2004	2,282,290	28,620	2,840
February 2005	2,654,670	34,400	3,550
February 2006	2,709,220	35,130	3,550
February 2007	2,730,940	35,280	3,570
February 2008	2,723,140	34,900	3,500
February 2009	2,723,610	34,670	3,520

Notes:
1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a partner.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Social Security Benefits

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed each type of benefit in *(a)* each parliamentary constituency in Scotland and *(b)* the UK in the most recent period for which figures are available. [288940]

Jim Knight: The requested information has been placed in the Library.

Social Security Benefits: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley are in receipt of (i) housing benefit and (ii) council tax benefit. [298115]

Helen Goodman: The available information is in the table.

Recipients of housing benefit and council tax benefit in the London borough of Bexley, May 2009

	Number
Housing benefit recipients	12,330
Council tax benefit recipients	16,060

Notes:
1: The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
4. Council tax benefit figures exclude second adult rebates.
Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) for May 2009 taken from Table 1 of publication at: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/HBCTB19082009.xls

Telephone Services

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her Department's policy is on call charges for hon. Members [illegible] of a telephone hotline on behalf of their consti[illegible] if she will make a statement. [292830]

Jim Knight: In Jobcentre Plus (part of the DWP) district managers are in regular contact with their local MPs in order to offer the personal assistance they need. Any hon. Member with a query about any benefits should contact the Jobcentre Plus district manager who has overall responsibility for the service to local residents. This service is provided through the district manager's office using geographic numbers and will give hon. Members effective support for a range of different queries. Jobcentre Plus will offer a call back service should any MP express their concerns in respect of charges.

The Pension, Disability and Carers Service provide a dedicated telephone service for the express use of Members of Parliament who require information on pensioner or disability and carer-related matters. The helpline numbers are 0113 232 4279 (Pensions) and 01253 333233/333533 (Disability/Carers), both geographic numbers. PDCS will also offer a call back service should any MP express their concerns in respect of charges.

Unemployment Benefits

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households were in receipt of both council tax benefit and housing benefit in each year since 1997. [297398]

Helen Goodman: Information is not available for 2005-07; the available information is in the following tables.

Recipients of both housing benefit and council tax benefit: Great Britain May 1997 to May 2004

	Number
1997	3,990,000
1998	3,890,000
1999	3,790,000
2000	3,570,000
2001	3,460,000
2002	3,430,000
2003	3,450,000
2004	3,550,000

Notes:
1. The figures are based on a 1 per cent sample and are therefore subject to sampling variation.
2. Caseload data are rounded to the nearest ten thousand due to the estimation procedure used to produce the figures.
3. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System annual 1 per cent

Recipients of both housing benefit and council tax benefit: Great Britain November 2008 and May 2009

	Number
2008	3,713,010
2009	3,904,620

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures are at November 2008 and May 2009.
3. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

Welfare to Work: Standards

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what age-based criteria there are in contracts between her Department and private sector welfare-to-work providers. [296849]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* Contracted employment provision may be targeted at specific benefit claimants and or specific customer groups. Age based criteria apply to some benefits and some provision, and this will necessarily be reflected in the contracts. Department for Work and Pensions contracts comply with all relevant legislation including that related to age.

Additional information can be found in the Library.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent on the alternative livelihoods programme in Afghanistan in each year since 2001. [297884]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) funds a range of programmes to support the promotion of alternative livelihoods in Afghanistan. These include funding for agriculture, rural and private sector development. DFID spend on these programmes since 2001 is as follows:

	£
2002	354,000
2003	3,000,000
2004	4,500,000
2005	18,300,000
2006	30,500,000
2007	14,100,000
2008	25,700,000

Last year DFID helped provide alternative livelihoods to farmers in Helmand by distributing wheat seed to over 13,000 farmers in the province. In addition, the UK participated in a voucher scheme providing seed and fertiliser to a further 147,000 farmers in nine provinces in Afghanistan.

There have been real signs of progress in farmers moving away from poppy cultivation. In September, the UN confirmed a 22 per cent. fall in opium cultivation in Afghanistan from 2008—this includes a 33 per cent. fall in Helmand, the heart of poppy cultivation.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many first-class flights were taken by Ministers of his Department in 2008-09; which Minister took each such flight; what the *(a)* origin and *(b)* destination was of each such flight; and what the cost to the public purse was in each case. [298366]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the Cabinet Office annual list of overseas travel in excess of £500 undertaken by Ministers. The 2008-09 list was published on 16 July 2009 and can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

Travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many first-class flights *(a)* he, *(b)* the Minister of State and *(c)* the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State took on official business between 1 January and 1 October 2009; and what the (i) destination, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost of each flight was. [298881]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the Cabinet Office annual list of overseas travel in excess of £500 undertaken by Ministers. The 2008-09 list was published on 16 July 2009 and can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

The 2009-10 list will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year.

Travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department were employed on the management of freedom of information requests submitted to his Department in each year since 2005; and how much his Department spent on the management of such requests in each such year. [299122]

Mr. Michael Foster: The requested information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 2005 a number of staff have worked on freedom of information (FOI) management; however, they were also engaged in other duties and it is not possible to disaggregate time and expenditure on each activity.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of postal services provided for his Department were provided by *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* other postal service providers (i) in 2007, (ii) in 2008, (iii) between 1 January and 1 July 2009 and (iv) since 1 July 2009. [298733]

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of postal services for his Department were provided by *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* other postal service providers (i) in 2007, (ii) in 2008, (iii) between 1 January and 1 July 2009 and (iv) after 1 July 2009. [298730]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development uses the Royal Mail for the majority of its postal services, the remainder being a direct mail service between its two UK offices and a small volume of ad-hoc couriered post. The relevant proportion of post is as follows:

		Percentage
	Royal Mail	*Other*
2007	82	18
2008	84	16
January to 1 July 2009	86	14
After 1 July 2009	84	16

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to encourage pharmaceutical companies to participate in the UNITAID patent pool to make HIV medicines more affordable. [298905]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has taken every opportunity—in speeches, statements to the press and in private meetings with company representatives—to encourage pharmaceutical companies to engage with UNITAID while it is in the process of developing an operational plan for a patent pool for HIV medicines. The UK Government, as a member of the board, looks forward to considering UNITAID's completed proposals for a patent pool in the UNITAID board meeting in December.

Developing Countries: Zinc

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps he has taken to increase the supply of zinc tablets to developing countries. [298336]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) new evidence paper, "The neglected crisis of undernutrition: Evidence for action", acknowledges the importance and cost effectiveness of zinc supplementation for maternal and child nutrition and health. This is available on-line:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/nutrition-evidence-paper.pdf

The forthcoming Nutrition strategy will also include support to scaling-up direct nutritional interventions, including zinc.

DFID provides £21 million a year to UNICEF which leads efforts to increase zinc supply to developing countries. Although there is still a vast unmet need, the number of tablets distributed has increased from 20 million in 2006 to 91 million in 2008. At a national level, DFID has also provided support to increase supply. For example, we are currently providing £7.5 million over five years to the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research in Bangladesh, which has carried out extensive trials on 'baby zinc'—a medicine for young children.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department takes to engage with civil society in developing countries when distributing aid. [298332]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is a signatory to the Cabinet Office managed Compact. The Compact is an agreement between Government and the voluntary and community sector which recognises shared values, principles and commitments and sets out guidelines for how both parties should work together.

The Compact includes guidelines on consultation which DFID strongly supports. For any new centrally managed DFID funding scheme, which potentially impacts on civil society, we ensure that we hold a full and open consultation process which specifically seeks the views of the sector.

Our direct spend through our country offices is governed by Country Plans. These plans set medium-term strategic priorities for our work at country level and determine key programming choices that will make best use of DFID resources in a particular country to meet identified development needs.

All DFID country offices producing a Country Plan must follow the 'Best Practice Guide'. This guide states that DFID country offices must include a 12 week consultation via the DFID website and that the target audience must include civil society and the voluntary sector.

Overseas Aid: Education

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken towards achieving universal *(a)* basic education and *(b)* literacy in the developing world. [298333]

Mr. Michael Foster: The information is as follows:

(a) The Department for International Development (DFID) supports partner governments by providing long-term predictable funding to enable them to develop and implement their education sector plans. The UK is actively engaged in galvanising action through international bodies such as the G8. Recent successes include last September's Education Partnership meeting in New York where UK Government activity helped the delivery of international pledges and commitments to education totalling over $4.5 billion. This year DFID is supporting, in part by providing up to £1 million, the Global Campaign for Education's "1 GOAL" campaign, which aims to use the power of the 2010 football World Cup to raise the profile of education.

(b) DFID is committed in partnership with other donors, to the realisation of all six goals of the Education for All (EFA) agenda. Through our long-term commitment to provide £8.5 billion in support of education overseas to 2015, we are supporting poor countries to invest in quality basic education, including lower secondary, to ensure that children attain the fundamental skills they need to participate in social and economic life. In addition to mainstream school education, DFID has recently supported adult literacy programmes in Uganda, Kenya, India and Yemen, as well as through humanitarian aid programmes.

Peru: Dams

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what financial contribution the UK has made to hydroelectric dam projects in Peru via the *(a)* World Bank Group, *(b)* European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, *(c)* European

Investment Bank and *(d)* other financial institutions funded from the public purse; and if he will make a statement. [297406]

Mr. Thomas: The UK has made no recent bilateral financial contribution to hydroelectric dam projects in Peru via *(a)* World Bank Group, *(b)* European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), *(c)* European Investment Bank (EIB) or *(d)* other financial institutions.

The UK holds shares or capital in the World Bank Group, EBRD, EIB and Inter-American Development Bank. It is not possible to allocate these pooled contributions to specific projects. Information on financial contributions made to hydroelectric dam projects in Peru via these or other financial institutions using UK funding is not held centrally.

The EBRD is not active in Latin America, so has made no financial contribution to any projects in Peru.

Peru: EC External Trade

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* his European counterparts on the environmental and social effects of the EU free trade agreement with Peru; and if he will make a statement. [297405]

Mr. Thomas: The Secretary of State for International Development has not personally had discussions with European colleagues regarding the European Union (EU)—Andean Nations multiparty trade agreement.

The UK Government regard the environmental and social impacts of all free trade agreements as important considerations. Officials in the joint Department for International Development/Business, Innovation and Skills (DFID/BIS) Trade Policy Unit have worked with the EU to ensure a strong chapter on sustainable development, and are working with other member states to improve the Sustainability Impact Assessment process. Officials are also working to ensure that any trade agreement with the Andean nations will contain a human rights clause as an essential element. The UK Government regard agreements of this nature as important for economic growth in developing countries, which by helping to reduce poverty will improve social welfare in these countries.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the suspension of EU free trade agreement negotiations with Peru; and if he will make a statement. [297407]

Mr. Thomas: The negotiations on the EU-Andean Nations (comprising Peru and Colombia) multi-party trade agreement have not been suspended. We support the negotiations and believe that the agreement will be important for further economic, and hence social, development in the region.

The UK Government regard the environmental and social impacts of all free trade agreements as important considerations. Officials in the joint Department for International Development/Business, Innovation and Skills (DFID/BIS) Trade Policy Unit have worked with the EU to ensure any agreement with the Andean nations includes a strong chapter on sustainable development, and are working with other member states to improve the Sustainability Impact Assessment process. Officials are also working to ensure that a human rights clause will be included as an essential element.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of and *(b)* the cost to his Department of unfilled places for 16 to 19 year-olds in academies; [297039]

(2) what mechanism exists for the return to his Department of funding allocated to academies for 16 to 19 year-olds that remains unused at the end of financial year 2008-09. [297040]

Mr. Coaker: The Department identifies unfilled places in local authority maintained schools and academies through an annual surplus places survey. In 2008 the survey established that there were 2,673 or 8 per cent. of unfilled 16 to 19-year-old places in academies with all year groups present. However, each year academy 16 to 19-year-old funding is normally allocated on the basis of estimates by the academy of the number of pupils aged over 16 that are on roll for the next September (except for that small minority of academies where these are based on actual census numbers). Each academy's estimate is considered in the light of its actual recruitment against funded numbers, with a view to ensuring that unfilled funded places for 16 to 19-year-olds are kept to an absolute minimum. This process takes account of local Learning and Skills Council information on provision in the relevant area.

For those academies where funded places are based on estimates, a clause in their funding agreement stipulates that an adjustment will be made to the following year's formulaic grant allocation if the actual numbers recruited across all year groups are more than either 10 per cent. or 2.5 per cent. (depending on the funding agreement) below the total estimated numbers on roll. 16 to 19-year-old pupils are included in this calculation.

Academies: Sponsorship

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the monetary value is of sponsorship funds provided by his Department for united learning trusts, broken down by *(a)* year of funding and *(b)* academy school in receipt of the funds in the last three years. [296534]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 29 October 2009]*: The Department does not provide funding for sponsors. Sponsors establish not-for-profit charitable companies to set up and run the academies, and these companies receive funding from the Department and sponsors.

There are two models for sponsors' payments: traditional procurement and the endowment model. On the first of these, the sponsorship payment is a contribution to the construction cost of academy buildings, normally of £2 million, but in the case of sponsors with their fourth or more academy, £1.5 million. The timing of this payment is usually phased and varies from academy to academy and is agreed between the Department and the Academy Trust. ULT sponsors 13 traditional procurement academies:

Manchester;
Lambeth;
Northampton;
Salford;
Barnsley;
Paddington;
Sheffield Park;
Sheffield Springs;
Walthamstow;
North Oxfordshire;
Swindon;
William Hulme; and
Stockport

The traditional procurement model was changed to the endowment model when responsibility for the provision of academy buildings was transferred to Partnerships for Schools (PfS).

With the endowment model, sponsors establish an endowment fund which generates revenue for the Academy Company to use to counteract the impact of deprivation on the communities they serve. This revenue is not used for either capital costs or to meet the academy's running costs, which are funded by the Department.

With the endowment model, payments by sponsors begin only after the academy has opened, and are usually phased over a period of five years. ULT currently sponsor four endowment model academies:

Accrington;
Midhurst Rother;
Kettering Buccleuch; and
Shoreham.

In some traditional procurement model academies (including some ULT academies), particularly where a sponsor has several academy projects and needs time to raise sponsorship contributions, the Department has agreed to pay an additional grant to the Academy Trust to cover part of a sponsor's agreed sponsorship payment. This is then recovered by the Department through deductions from the academy's "General Annual Grant (GAG)", which academies receive to meet their running costs. Academy sponsors then make contributions to the academies to make good these deductions.

For some multiple academy sponsors, such as ULT, who have already committed £2 million to a number of academy projects, we have agreed that the sponsor can use "reasonable endeavours" to raise funds. To date, payments made by sponsors to academy companies in relation to the traditional procurement model amount to almost £100 million, of which ULT have paid almost £11 million.

A table setting out the Department's funding for each ULT academy from 2001/02 to 2009/10 has been placed in the Libraries.

CAFCASS: Finance

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the training budget for Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service practitioners has been *(a)* in total and *(b)* per head in each of the last two years. [298688]

Dawn Primarolo: CAFCASS' total spend on training was £1.119 million in 2008/09 and £1.171 million in 2007/08.

CAFCASS does not hold information on the split of these amounts between practitioners and other staff groups so cannot give an accurate per head figure.

Children: Communication Skills

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to assist more local authorities to implement the recommendations of the Bercow review of services for children and young people with speech, language and communications needs; and if he will make a statement. [298787]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Following the Bercow review of services for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN), the Government published "Better Communication: An action plan to improve services for children and young people with SLCN", backed by £12 million investment.

As part of the action plan, the Department and the Department of Health have chosen 16 local areas to become SLCN commissioning pathfinders. The 16 pilot areas have been chosen to identify good practice in providing support for children with SLCN through the joint working of organisations such as primary care trusts and local authorities. This will be used to develop a national framework to improve the way services are delivered for children across the country.

Jean Gross was announced as the communication champion on 15 October 2009, and we have established the Communication Council, which met for the first time on 21 September 2009, to support initiatives to improve services for children with SLCN. As communication champion, Jean Gross will raise awareness of the importance of communication, share good practice and lead delivery of a national year of speech, language and communication.

In addition, the University of Warwick has been selected to lead a consortium delivering a three-year, £1.5 million research programme on the cost-effectiveness of interventions and to guide the development of future policy and practice in providing services for children and young people with SLCN.

12 organisations working to support children with alternative and augmentative communication needs have been chosen to share grants totalling £500,000 this year as part of BECTA's commitment to provide £1.5 million of funding over the next three years. These grants aim to support delivery and provision of services.

Children: Day Care

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the annual cost of providing 10 hours of free childcare to 250,000 two year olds; and in which year he expects such provision to commence. [298467]

Dawn Primarolo: The extension of the free early education entitlement to 250,000 two-year-olds will be in place by 2015. This extension is being fully funded through savings from phasing out tax relief on child care vouchers. More details will be set out in the pre-Budget report.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people previously convicted of crimes have successfully appealed against a decision to bar them from working with children, broken down by type of offence committed. [294119]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 19 October 2009]*: Information on appeals can be found on the First Tier Tribunal's website at:

www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk

This contains information on the decisions made by the Tribunal on all appeal cases which have received a hearing since 2001. There are 94 cases where people have appealed against decisions to bar them from working with children. Of these, 34 appeals were upheld by the Tribunal. Locating and retrieving the information requested on whether the individuals had been convicted of offences, and the type of offence would require detailed checks to be made of individual case records and this would incur disproportionate cost.

European Schools

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers working in the European Schools obtained the threshold as a result of the Employment Appeals Tribunal's ruling in favour of John Mason. [297882]

Mr. Coaker: One teacher received threshold pay as a result of the Employment Appeal Tribunal's ruling in favour of John Mason.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many applicants applied for each UK post in the European Schools in each of the last 10 years. [297902]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is shown in the following table.

	Number of posts advertised	*Number of applications received*[1]
2000	11	265
2001	14	165
2002	28	345
2003	24	240
2004	28	480
2005	20	270
2006	19	475
2007	22	160
2008	27	240
2009	32	400
Total (2000-09)	225	3,040

[1] Figures are based on the number of applicants recorded on tables who applied for posts in any given year. The Department only keeps applications for one year after each annual recruitment exercise so figures should therefore be regarded as approximate.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers employed in the European Schools are paid the threshold. [297904]

Mr. Coaker: 50 teachers employed in the European Schools system receive threshold pay.

European Union: Primary Education

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 232W, on the European Union: primary education, what information on the European Union his Department permits EU institutions to distribute to primary schools. [295596]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not endorse any specific teaching resources and it is for teachers to use their professional judgment in determining which materials to use in the classroom.

In addition, European Union institutions have a policy of distributing publications only on demand. They do not send out unsolicited information.

Families: Prison

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what programmes his Department has to support the families of those who are in prison; [298706]

(2) how many Sure Start children's centres have programmes in place to provide appropriate support for the families of those who are in prison. [298707]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department recognises that many children of offenders are vulnerable and is working closely with the Ministry of Justice and National Offender Management Service to meet their needs.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Ministry of Justice have just published (on 3 November 2009) a cross-government framework setting out recommended practice by local agencies and offender management services in identifying and supporting these families.

We have significantly expanded funding for parenting and family support and have just announced indicative local authority allocations for 2010-11 totalling £89 million. Many of the projects delivered with this funding, such as family intervention projects, work with prisons and the probation service to support this group of families. The Department also directly funds a range of organisations such as Action For Prisoners' Families to deliver projects to support the families of offenders through the our third sector grant programmes.

The Sure Start children's centres practice guidance highlights families with a parent in prison or known to be engaged in criminal activity among those vulnerable families for whom additional support should be available. It includes a separate section with good practice examples on how services can be tailored to meet the needs of partners and families of prisoners. Together for Children, the Department's delivery partner, have also produced a support product "Working Effectively with Families in Sure Start Children's Centres" which includes a checklist and links to resources to help centres working with families of prisoners and is available online at:

http://www.childrens-centres.org/Topics/AllTfCSupportProducts.aspx#WorkingwithFamilies

Information on how many Sure Start children's centres have programmes in place to provide appropriate support for families of those who are in prison is not collected centrally. Local authorities, working with their partners in children's trusts, are responsible for decisions on services to be delivered in children's centres in response to local needs and demands.

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils obtaining five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics also received an equivalent qualification worth four GCSEs in the latest period for which figures are available; [295280]

(2) how many pupils obtaining five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics also obtained an equivalent qualification worth two or more GCSEs in the latest period for which figures are available. [295281]

Mr. Coaker: Provisional figures for 2009 show that of the 314,158 pupils who achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics (including equivalents), 33,867 of these pupils achieved at least one individual equivalent qualification worth four GCSEs at grades A* to C. Of these, 5,351 would not have met the threshold without the equivalent qualification.

98,437 pupils who achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics (including equivalents) obtained at least one individual equivalent qualification worth two or more GCSEs at grades A* to C. Of these, 9,889 would not have met the threshold without these equivalent qualifications.

Notes:

1. Figures cover pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in all schools.

2. Qualifications counted as GCSEs for this answer include full GCSEs, short course GCSEs, GCSE double awards, GCSEs in applied subjects and GCE AS levels that have been taken early. All other accredited qualifications that are approved for pre-16 use are counted as GCSE equivalent qualifications.

GCSE: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school pupils in Birmingham achieved *(a)* five A* to C grades at GCSE or equivalent and *(b)* five A* to C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and mathematics in each year since 1998. [296278]

Mr. Coaker: The figures requested are given in the following table.

Number of pupils in Birmingham who achieved selected grades at GCSE or equivalent in each year since 1998

	5 A-C*		*5 A*-C including English and mathematics*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
1998	4,137	35.9	2,982	25.9
1999	4,435	38.1	3,335	28.6
2000	4,672	40.8	3,584	31.3
2001	4,879	41.2	3,683	31.1
2002	5,359	45.3	4,036	34.1
2003	5,963	49.4	4,217	35.0
2004	6,218	51.2	4,448	36.6
2005	6,797	56.6	4,678	39.0
2006	7,336	58.8	5,090	40.8
2007	7,813	61.8	5,266	41.6
2008	8,429	66.6	5,762	45.5
2009	8,885	72.0	5,829	47.2

Notes:
1. 1998 to 2004 data relate to 15-year-olds at the start of the school year.
2. 2005 to 2009 data relate to pupils at the end of key stage 4.
3. 2009 figures are provisional.
Source:
Achievement and Attainment Tables' database.

Learning and Skills Improvement Service: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department is providing to the Learning and Skills Improvement Service in 2009-10; and what proportion this constitutes of the total budget of the Learning and Skills Improvement Service. [296879]

Mr. Coaker: In 2009-10 the Department for Business Innovation and Skills will receive funding from DCSF in respect of the Learning and Skills Improvement Service of £36.634 million, which represents 25 per cent. of the total LSIS income for that financial year.

Primary Education: Pupils

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary schools in each region had more than *(a)* 400, *(b)* 500, *(c)* 600 and *(d)* 700 pupils in the latest period for which figures are available. [298315]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information requested is shown in the table.

Maintained primary schools: Number of schools by size[1, 2], January 2009, England

	Total number of maintained primary schools	*Of which: Number of schools with more than*			
		400 pupils	*500 pupils*	*600 pupils*	*700 pupils*
North East	886	90	19	4	0
North West	2,408	228	43	16	4
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,843	218	49	17	4
East Midlands	1,660	141	25	10	1
West Midlands	1,805	281	80	44	14
East of England	2,022	178	41	10	1
Inner London	601	209	44	22	11

Maintained primary schools: Number of schools by size[1, 2, 3], January 2009, England

	Total number of maintained primary schools	Of which: Number of schools with more than: 400 pupils	500 pupils	600 pupils	700 pupils
Outer London	1,113	402	113	84	29
South East	2,631	333	60	28	5
South West	1,905	140	19	9	1
England	17,064	2,290	593	250	70

[1] Based on headcount of pupils, excludes dual registrations.
[2] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[3] Schools are counted against each relevant column e.g. those in 'more than 500' are also in 'more than 400'.
Source:
School Census.

Pupil Exclusions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of pupils have been given *(a)* fixed period and *(b)* permanent exclusions from schools in each decile of deprivation in the latest period for which figures are available; [296260]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1104-05W, on pupil exclusions: disadvantaged, what the rate of permanent exclusion from *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* special schools was in each income deprivation affecting children index decile of deprivation in the latest year for which figures are available. [296289]

Mr. Coaker: The available information is shown in the table.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3]: number and proportion of pupil enrolments with fixed period or permanent exclusions by level of deprivation of school[4, 5], England, 2007/08 (estimates)[6]

Level of deprivation of school based on IDACI	One or more fixed period exclusions: Number of pupil enrolments[4]	Percentage of the school population[7]	Permanent exclusions[6]: Number of pupil enrolments[4]	Percentage of the school population[7]	Rate of permanent exclusion[6, 8]: Primary schools[1]	Secondary schools[1, 2]	Special schools[3]
0-10% most deprived	21,070	2.90	900	0.12	0.04	0.29	0.23
10-20%	21,670	3.08	870	0.13	0.04	0.28	0.08
20-30%	24,900	3.24	1,110	0.14	0.03	0.28	0.16
30-40%	21,410	2.88	830	0.11	0.03	0.22	0.16
40-50%	24,760	3.06	970	0.12	0.02	0.23	0.15
50-60%	18,690	2.57	750	0.10	0.02	0.21	0.14
60-70%	21,100	2.70	700	0.09	0.02	0.16	0.22
70-80%	19,090	2.52	700	0.09	0.01	0.18	0.33
80-90%	17,000	2.28	630	0.08	0.01	0.16	0.23
90-100% least deprived	15,640	2.17	670	0.09	0.01	0.17	0.19
Total for all schools	204,890	2.74	8,130	0.11	0.02	0.21	0.19

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Pupils may be counted more than once if they were registered at more than one school or moved schools during the year.
[5] 2007 Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index at Super Output Area level based on the location of the school.
[6] Figures relating to permanent exclusions are estimates based on incomplete pupil-level data.
[7] The number of pupil enrolments with one or more fixed period exclusions as a percentage of the number (headcount) of pupils (excluding dually registered pupils), in each IDACI band, in January 2008.
[8] The number of pupil enrolments with a permanent exclusion as a percentage of the number (headcount) of pupils (excluding dually registered pupils), in each IDACI band, by school type, in January 2008.
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census.

Pupils: Bullying

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to prevent bullying and intimidation of Jewish children in schools; and if he will make a statement. [296343]

Mr. Coaker: The DCSF has made it clear to schools that all forms of bullying, including those motivated by prejudice, should not be tolerated. Schools have the legal duty to put measures in place to promote good behaviour, respect for others and to prevent all forms of bullying among pupils. Schools' legal duties also include promoting community cohesion which is about building an appreciation of diversity, developing shared values and fostering good relations between different groups of pupils. Ofsted has inspected schools against this duty since September 2008.

In March 2006 we published specialist guidance on bullying around race, religion and culture which focused on preventing and tackling racist and religious bullying in schools and included specific material on bullying related to anti-Semitism. We are funding the Anti-Bullying Alliance and the National Strategies to ensure the guidance is effectively embedded in local authorities and schools.

Pupils: Special Educational Needs

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils with special educational needs have been given *(a)* fixed-period and *(b)* permanent exclusions in each year since 1997; [296257]

(2) how many and what proportion of pupils *(a)* eligible for free school meals, *(b)* who speak English as an additional language and *(c)* who have special educational needs were given (i) fixed-period and (ii) permanent exclusions from schools in the latest period for which figures are available. [296259]

Mr. Coaker: Data on the special educational needs status of excluded pupils is collected at the time of exclusion. Information relating to the number of permanent exclusions by SEN status since 1997 is published in table 7 of the Statistical First Release published at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000860/index.shtml

Data on fixed period exclusions was collected for the first time in 2003/04; in 2005/06 it was collected for secondary schools only.

The available information relating to the number of fixed period exclusions (not the number of pupils) by SEN status between 2003/04 and 2006/07 is published in table 8 of the Statistical First Release published at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000793/index.shtml

The number of fixed period exclusions by SEN status for 2007/08 is available in table 8a of the Statistical First Release published at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000860/index.shtml

A pupil's SEN status can change between periods of exclusion; data relating to the SEN status of excluded pupil enrolments, based on their SEN status at the time of their most recent fixed period or permanent exclusion, has been determined for the first time for 2007/08. The available information on pupil enrolments is shown in the following table.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1] [2] [3] number and percentage of pupil enrolments receiving one or more fixed period exclusions or a permanent exclusion by pupil characteristics[4]

England, 2007/08 (estimates)[5]

	One or more fixed period exclusions		Permanent exclusion[5]	
	Number of pupil enrolments[4]	Percentage of applicable school population[6]	Number of pupil enrolments[4]	Percentage of applicable school population[6]
Eligible for free school meals[7]	62,090	5.66	3,050	0.28
Speak English as an additional language[8]	18,570	2.25	640	0.08
Have special educational needs[9]	114,260	7.42	5,780	0.38
All pupils	204,890	2.74	8,130	0.11

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Pupils may be counted more than once if they were registered at more than one school or changed schools during the year.

[5] Figures relating to permanent exclusions are estimates based on incomplete pupil-level data.

[6] The number of pupil enrolments who received exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) by pupil characteristic, in January 2008.

[7] Free school meal eligibility as at the time of the January 2008 School Census.

[8] Includes only pupils of compulsory school age and above.

[9] Pupils' SEN status at the time of their most recent fixed period or permanent exclusion. Includes pupils whose status is School Action, School Action Plus and those who have statements of special educational needs.

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Schools

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average time taken for a school to receive an official registration number from his Department was in the latest period for which figures are available. [298317]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: A new maintained school's registration number is normally issued from the Department within five working days of it being notified by the Decision Maker, either the local authority or the schools adjudicator, that the required statutory process has been followed and a decision has been made to approve the statutory proposals for the establishment of the new school.

Once notified of its registration number, it is for the Decision Maker to make sure these details are passed on to the relevant person at the new school.

The decision-making process for independent schools is dealt with by the Department. The whole registration process will take a minimum of three months, but can take longer, depending on the applicant's readiness to meet the regulatory standards.

Once the Department is satisfied the standards are met an application for an official registration number may take up to 10 working days which is then notified directly to the proprietor.

Schools: Astrophysics

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much of the Government's expenditure from its budgets allocated to space has been spent on space education in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each of the last 10 years. [297326]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* The Department does not hold the information requested.

Schools: Standards

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of *(a)* schools and *(b)* Catholic schools had (i) value-added scores and (ii) points scores above the national average at each level of assessment in the latest period for which figures are available. [293938]

Mr. Coaker: The performance of all schools is published annually in the Achievement and Attainment Tables. This is available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/

This publication includes the contextual value added (CVA) score for every school, together with a confidence interval around that score.

At Key Stage 2 (KS2) the expected CVA score is 100, therefore any school with a lower confidence bound greater than 100 could be described as having a high value added score. There were 3,966 such schools[1] in 2008, the latest period for which figures are available (representing 27 per cent. of all primary schools). 498 of these schools were Catholic schools which represents 31 per cent. of all Catholic primary schools.

The average KS2 point score is also published for every school. In 2008 the national average point score was 27.9.

There were 8,357 schools (57 per cent. of all primary schools) with average point scores above this figure. 1,115 of these schools were Catholic schools which represents 69 per cent. of all Catholic primary schools.

At Key Stage 4 (KS4) the expected CVA score is 1,000, therefore any school with a lower confidence bound greater than 1,000 could be described as having a high value added score. There were 912 such schools[2] in 2008, the latest period for which figures are available (representing 29 per cent. of all secondary schools). 129 of these schools were Catholic schools which represents 34 per cent. of all Catholic secondary schools.

The average KS4 point score is also published for every school. In 2008 the national average point score was 390.2. There were 1,603 schools (51 per cent. of all secondary schools) with average point scores above this figure. 234 of these schools were Catholic schools which represents 62 per cent. of all Catholic secondary schools.

[1] All KS2 figures are based on 14,768 maintained mainstream primary schools of which 1,616 are Catholic schools.

[2] All KS4 figures are based on 3,159 maintained mainstream secondary schools of which 378 are Catholic schools.

Secondary Education: Pupils

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many secondary schools in each region had more than *(a)* 1,000 and *(b)* 2,000 pupils in the latest period for which figures are available. [298314]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information requested is shown in the table.

State funded secondary schools: Number of schools by Size[1, 2, 3, 4], January 2009, England

		Of which:	
	Total number of state funded secondary schools	Number of schools with more than 1,000 pupils	Number of schools with more than 2,000 pupils
North East	203	65	2
North West	464	179	0
Yorkshire and the Humber	319	155	4
East Midlands	303	142	4
West Midlands	401	146	1
East of England	421	180	1
Inner London	148	58	0
Outer London	278	169	4
South East	498	243	7
South West	326	157	3
England	3,361	1,494	26

[1] Based on headcount of pupils, excludes dual registrations.

[2] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[3] Includes CTCs and academies (including all through academies).

[4] Schools are counted against each relevant column e.g. those in 'more than 2,000' are also in 'more than 1,000'.

Teachers: Derbyshire

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on additional teachers in *(a)* Derbyshire and *(b)* North East Derbyshire constituency since 1997. [296070]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not hold the information requested. It is a matter for each local authority and its schools to determine locally.

Trust Schools

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Trust schools have been created since the entry into force of the Education and Inspections Act 2006; and how many such schools have *(a)* more than one elected parent governor and *(b)* a Parents' Council. [297865]

Mr. Coaker: To date 243 Trust schools (foundation schools with a foundation) that the Department has been advised of, have been established or acquired their trust under the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

The Department does not hold records of the number of parent governors. Any Trust school with a foundation majority—where the Trust appoints the majority of governors to the Governing Body—must set up a Parent Council. Our records show that 15 schools have acquired this model so far.

United Learning Trust

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library copies of each contract or agreement made between his Department and united learning trusts. [296538]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 29 October 2009]*: Copies of all contracts and agreements with the United Learning Trust are on the Department's website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/foischeme/

HEALTH

Cancer: Drugs

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with Birmingham East and North Primary Care Trust since 1 January 2009 on the availability of cancer medicines from the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [297713]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None.

National health service organisations are statutorily required to make funding available for treatments recommended by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence's (NICE) technology appraisal guidance within three months of final guidance unless the funding direction has not been amended or waived. Where NICE guidance does not exist for a treatment, NHS patients have a right to expect local funding decisions to be made rationally on the basis of the available evidence.

Coeliac Disease

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people diagnosed with coeliac disease; what screening takes place to identify those with the disease; how much the NHS spent on *(a)* identifying and *(b)* treating those with coeliac disease in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [298150]

Ann Keen: We have made no estimate of the number of people diagnosed with coeliac disease.

The United Kingdom National Screening Committee, which advises Ministers and the national health service on screening policy and its implementation, has recommended that whole-population screening for coeliac disease should not be offered. Guidelines published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommend that serological testing is offered, or that clinicians consider offering serological testing, to children and adults presenting with specific signs, symptoms or existing conditions as defined in the guidance.

National health service expenditure on identifying and treating those with coeliac disease is not collected centrally.

Dental Services

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assistance and advice his Department provides to NHS dentistry practices which have difficulty meeting demand for their services; [297955]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that there is sufficient provision of NHS dentistry in rural areas. [297956]

Ann Keen: Dental practices contract with their local primary care trusts (PCTs) to deliver an agreed level of annual dental service. It is for each PCT to ensure that it contracts with sufficient practices at sufficient levels of service to meet local need for national health service dental care. Dentists who are able and willing to do more NHS work can approach their local PCT, or bid for extra work where local PCTs are inviting tenders.

Access to NHS dental care is growing steadily, with 721,000 more patients seen in the 24 months ending June 2009 than in the 24 months ending June 2008. But we recognise there is further to go. The NHS has committed itself to ensuring that, by March 2011, all those who actively seek NHS dental care can access it. We have put in place the Dental Access Programme to support the NHS in achieving this commitment.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on first class rail travel for officials in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06. [298394]

Phil Hope: The Department has spent the following on first-class rail travel.

	£
2004-05	5,377,271.00
2005-06	4,101,667.18

It should be noted that the above figures represent travel booked through the central booking system which constitutes the vast majority of how travel is booked and paid for.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health *(a)* how many and *(b)* what proportion of telephone calls made to lines operated by (i) his Department and (ii) the NHS were classified as prank calls in the latest period for which figures are available. [298208]

Phil Hope: The Department does not collect information on the number of prank calls to Department of Health operated phone lines in the requested format.

Records on such calls to the Department's communications directorate phone lines are maintained but those figures also include wrong numbers, people who put the phone down before speaking to an operator and people who have misjudged the services offered by the line they called.

The Department's communications directorate phone lines overall are within the industry average of around 10 per cent. calls of this type.

Information on national health service or any other telephone services that may be run on behalf of the Department are not held centrally and cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

Direct Payments

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people received payments under the direct payment scheme in each year since 2000; and how much was paid out in each such year; [298326]

(2) how much his Department spent on the direct payments scheme in each year since 2000. [298327]

Phil Hope: Financial data on the total running cost of the direct payments scheme is not collected centrally by the Department.

However, the NHS Information Centre for health and social care collects and publishes information on the number of adults receiving direct payments provided by Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (CASSRs) and the gross current expenditure on these direct payments.

The following table shows the number of adults (aged 18 and over) in receipt of direct payments and the total gross current expenditure by CASSRs in England on direct payments during the year from 2000-01 to 2008-09.

Number of adults (aged 18 and over) in receipt of direct payments and the total gross current expenditure in England on direct payments during the year from 2000-01 to 2008-09

Rounded numbers

1 April to 31 March:	*Clients in receipt of direct payments*	*Gross expenditure on direct payments (£000)*
2000-01	5,000	49,800
2001-02	6,300	57,700
2002-03	9,600	84,500
2003-04	17,300	126,300
2004-05[1]	24,500	192,300
2005-06	37,400	274,200
2006-07	48,500	356,700
2007-08	66,800	452,500
2008-09[2]	86,100	605,100

[1] Data on the number of people receiving community based services from 2004-05 is not comparable to previous years. In 2004-05 restated guidance was issued to exclude people receiving services from grant funded organisations who had not had a community care assessment.

[2] Data for 2008-09 is provisional.

Source:

RAP P2f and PSS Ex1

Disability: Social Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the proposals in the Social Care Green Paper on disability benefits, whether the removal of attendance allowance is to operate beyond the top three wealth quintiles after 2014; whether payment to those in the lower two wealth quintiles is to be based on a means test *(a)* equivalent to the means test for pension credit and *(b)* with no upper capital limit; and whether any payment is to be made to an individual in the lower two quintiles who is in receipt of care and support. [298210]

Phil Hope: The Government are currently consulting on proposals to reform the care and support system for adults in England. As part of that consultation, we are considering the case for bringing together elements of some disability benefits, such as attendance allowance, with social care funding, to create a new care and support system to provide for the needs of older and disabled people. The assumptions used in the economic modelling were published by the Personal Social Services Research Unit in July 2009 at

www.pssru.ac.uk/pdf/dp2644.pdf

No decisions have yet been made around how this should be achieved in practice.

Drugs: Prisons

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the merits of quality assurance for drug treatment services in prisons provided through the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse. [297368]

Phil Hope: In April 2008, the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) was given responsibility for the implementation of the Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) in prisons. The NTA put in place a range of performance and quality assurance arrangements to support the delivery of the programme.

At a local level, all prison partnerships implementing IDTS in prisons are required to submit Annual Treatment Plans to their regional NTA team setting out key priorities, objectives, actions and milestones for the delivery of effective treatment, including a financial budget for the year. Progress against these plans is reviewed quarterly.

NTA are responsible for the IDTS prison treatment data, which is reported through the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) and includes data from the Drug Interventions Record. The collection of IDTS prison treatment data began in April 2009 and from April 2010 will be part of PSA 25 activity data, whereby all primary care trusts have to ensure the provision of effective treatment as one of the Tier 2 Vital Signs indicators within the 2009-10 NHS Operating Framework.

New Government guidance, covering issues around quality assurance for prisons commissioners, service providers and practitioners on continuity of care for people on release from prison ("Drug Misusing Offenders: Ensuring the continuity-of-care between prisons and community (June 09)") and on the management of dual diagnosis in prisons ("A Guide for the Management of Dual Diagnosis for Prisons (March 2009)") have also recently been published. The implementation of these guidance documents, and assuring quality, will also be led by the NTA at a local level.

Elderly People: Ethnic Minorities

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer to Question 290279, which councils *(a)* have and *(b)* have not made use of the audit tool for developing services for minority ethnic older people in each year. [298303]

Phil Hope: The Audit Tool was produced as practice guidance for all councils with social services responsibilities. It was intended for use as a local resource and there has been no central monitoring as to which councils have or have not made use of it.

Health Education

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will publish the evaluation it made of the effectiveness of each health promotion campaign that it *(a)* ran itself and *(b)* it commissioned from other organisations in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07, (iii) 2007-08 and (iv) 2008-09. [297863]

Phil Hope: The Department publishes summaries of research relating to health promotion campaigns it runs or commissions. These can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/FreedomOfInformation/Freedomofinformationpublicationschemefeedback/Classesofinformation/Campaignresearch/index.htm

categorised by issue. The summaries are currently published on an annual basis. Summaries for July 2007-July 2008 will be published by the end of 2009. Thereafter the summaries will be published on a six monthly basis.

Health Services: Social Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates the Ministerial Group on Integration of Health and Social Care Services has met since its creation. [298285]

Phil Hope: The ministerial group on integration of Health and Social Care Services has met three times since its creation on 10 March 2009, 15 June 2009 and 20 October 2009.

Health: Screening

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 334W, on cardiovascular system: screening, when his Department intends to begin collecting information through the national minimum data set on NHS health checks; what information will be included for collection in the national minimum data set; which organisation will be responsible for administering it; whether he intends the information to be published; and if he will make a statement. [297377]

Ann Keen: Primary care trusts are beginning phased implementation of their NHS Health Check programme and there is strong support for the development of a national data set. We are currently working with the Information Standards Board for Health and Social Care to develop a National Data Set for the NHS Health Check programme. It is too early to give details about exactly what information will be collected, who will be responsible for administering it or if the information will be published.

Herbal Medicine

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable he has set for statutory registration of professional herbalists; and if he will make a statement. [298157]

Ann Keen: The Department is currently undertaking a consultation exercise on whether acupuncture, herbal medicine and traditional Chinese medicine practitioners should be regulated and if so how. Once the consultation period has ended, and the responses have been analysed, a decision on the way forward will then be made.

Home Care Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received home help funded from the public purse during the sample week used for his Department's survey on home care services in September 2009. [298376]

Phil Hope: We are informed by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care that it no longer collects data on the number of people receiving home help funded by councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs) during a sample week in September. The result of a new data collection on the home care services is expected to be published by the Information Centre in early 2010.

The most recent data available shows that, during the survey week in September 2008, 340,600 service users received home care funded by CASSRs in England.

Hospitals: Ashford Kent

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his plans are for the future of the King's Avenue, Ashford site as an NHS facility. [297607]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The provision and development of local health services and facilities are the responsibility of the local national health service. The future of the King's Avenue, Ashford site is therefore a matter for Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust.

Hospitals: Parking

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect on *(a)* Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust and *(b)* the Royal Free Hospital of the proposed abolition of car parking charges; and if he will make a statement. [296644]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: National health service organisations provide car parking to patients and visitors based on their local plans, needs and circumstances. The details and effects of implementing free car parking for in-patients will vary between different NHS organisations. It is therefore for each local NHS organisation to assess the effect of the abolition of car parking charges.

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of people who have been inoculated against influenza and pneumococcal disease; and if he will make a statement. [298762]

Gillian Merron: The H1N1 (swine flu) vaccination programme which started in October is supported by a comprehensive programme of communications to the general public and a major, leadership-driven campaign to encourage national health service and social care staff to take up the vaccine.

This year's seasonal flu campaign is being delivered in a highly targeted way to the usual at-risk groups in order to minimise confusion, particularly where there are differences from the swine flu priority groups (for example, over-65s who are otherwise healthy). The message "Don't underestimate seasonal flu" features in leaflets, surgery posters and pharmacy bags, on the basis that people in the seasonal flu at-risk groups are often in contact with primary care.

Pneumococcal vaccines are offered to older people and to babies and infants. The programme for older people is supported by a leaflet entitled "Age 65 or Over? Make sure you get your pneumo" that is available from surgeries.

For children, pneumococcal vaccine is offered as part of the routine childhood immunisation programme. This is supported by a range of information resources.

As part of the Operating Framework for the NHS in England, the Department has adopted a Vital Signs indicator to monitor and increase uptake of the pneumococcal vaccine in the childhood immunisation programme.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been inoculated against influenza in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [298763]

Gillian Merron: Data on the number of people who have received seasonal influenza vaccine are available nationally and at the strategic health authority (SHA) and the primary care trust (PCT) levels. No data are available for individual parliamentary constituencies.

Data for the years 2005-06 to 2008-09 are given in the following table for the PCTs that have included the Ribble Valley constituency, and for Lancashire and England.

The data are presented for (i) patients over 65 years of age (table 1) and (ii) for patients under 65 years of age in clinical at risk groups (table 2), the total number of eligible people that received vaccine and the percentage uptake of vaccine by those eligible by the end of the influenza season in each year.

Table 1: Vaccination percentage uptake among the 65 years of age and over

		65 years and over	
Survey year	*PCT name*	*Number vaccinated*	*Vaccine uptake (percentage)*
2005-06	West Lancashire PCT	14,123	77.8
	Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic HA	256,393	75.5
	England total	6,122,744	75.3
2006-07	Central Lancashire PCT	54,882	74.9
	East Lancashire PCT	41,585	73.9
	North Lancashire PCT	51,695	76.4
	Total of above PCTs	148,162	75.1
	England total	5,779,145	73.9
2007-08	Central Lancashire PCT	53,990	75.1
	East Lancashire PCT	43,296	72.4
	North Lancashire PCT	52,028	76
	Total of above PCTs	149,314	74.6
	England total	5,934,370.0	73.5
2008-09	Central Lancashire PCT	55,263	75
	East Lancashire PCT	44,565	73.4
	North Lancashire PCT	52,911	76.4
	Total of above PCTs	152,739	75.0
	England total	6,130,532	74

Table 2: Vaccination percentage uptake among the under 65 years of age in clinical risk

		Under 65 years and at risk[1]	
Survey year	*PCT name*	*Number vaccinated*	*Vaccine uptake (percentage)*
2005-06	West Lancashire PCT	6,140	66.9
	Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic HA	112,922	59.2
	England total	1,443,893	48.0
2006-07	Central Lancashire PCT	21,454	45.1
	East Lancashire PCT	16,783	45.8
	North Lancashire PCT	13,698	45.9

Table 2: Vaccination percentage uptake among the under 65 years of age in clinical risk

Survey year	*PCT name*	*Under 65 years and at risk*[1]	
		Number vaccinated	*Vaccine uptake (percentage)*
	Total of above PCTs	51,935	45.5
	England total	1,770,840	42.1
2007-08	Central Lancashire PCT	20,424	[redacted]7.4
	East Lancashire PCT	17,908	51.9
	North Lancashire PCT	15,317	48.6
	Total of above PCTs	53,649	49.2
	England total	1,977,509	45.3
2008-09	Central Lancashire PCT	22,008	52.8
	East Lancashire PCT	19,025	52.9
	North Lancashire PCT	16,079	50.9
	Total of above PCTs	57,112	52.3
	England total	92,216	52.2

[1] Data for individuals aged under 65 years and in a risk group has only been collated since the 2005-06 season.

Source:

Influenza Immunisation Uptake Monitoring Programme HPA/DH. ImmForm reporting website.

Uptake data for this year's seasonal and swine flu vaccination programmes are not yet available.

Mental Health Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* patient safety and *(b)* waiting times of proposals to differentiate standards of proficiency for counselling and psychotherapy; and if he will make a statement. [298363]

Ann Keen: The Government have not yet received proposals for the regulation of psychotherapists and counsellors from the Health Professions Council (HPC). The Government will give careful consideration to the HPC's recommendations, including impact assessments, once these have been presented to the Secretary of State.

Mental Health Services: Waiting Lists

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* under 18 years and *(b)* 18 years or over are on waiting lists to receive treatment for a mental health problem in the Milton Keynes area. [297811]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Muscular Dystrophy: South East

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many care advisers are available for muscular dystrophy patients within the area covered by the South East and Coastal Regional Health Authority. [296723]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. However, the Department is aware of variations in service provision for those living with muscular dystrophy. We have therefore asked the National Commissioning team to work with the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign to run a workshop on best practice commissioning.

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision has been made for the *(a)* respiratory care and *(b)* cardiac screening of muscular dystrophy patients living within the area covered by the South East and Coastal Regional Health Authority; and how much funding for (i) 2009-10 and (ii) each of the previous five years was allocated to these services. [296728]

Ann Keen: It is the responsibility of health professionals to use their clinical judgment, working with patients and their families, to decide on the most appropriate health care for those living with muscular dystrophy (MD). Local health bodies have the responsibility to commission appropriate levels of health care to meet the needs of all their patients, including those with MD. Funding is not allocated specifically for MD.

However, the Department is aware of variations in service provision for those living with muscular dystrophy. We have therefore asked the national commissioning team to work with the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign to run a workshop on best practice commissioning.

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with what frequency a muscular dystrophy patient living within the area covered by the South East and Coastal Regional Health Authority should receive specialist physiotherapy. [296729]

Ann Keen: There is no recommended level of physiotherapy services—patients living with muscular dystrophy will have differing needs, and services should be provided based on an individual assessment of a patient's needs.

However, the Department is aware of variations in service provision for those living with muscular dystrophy. We have therefore asked the national commissioning team to work with the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign to run a workshop on best practice commissioning.

National Assistance Act 1948

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many adults have received support under section 21 of the National Assistance Act 1948 in each year since 1997. [298302]

Phil Hope: Section 21 of the National Assistance Act 1948 empowers local authorities to support people in residential and nursing care. Data on the number of adults—aged 18 and over—in local authority supported registered residential and nursing care is collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care via the Supported Residents (SR1) return.

Table 1 shows the numbers of adults—aged 18 and over—in local authority funded residential and nursing care, including numbers in adult placements/Shared Lives, as at 31 March for the years 1997 to 2005 in England.

Table 1: Total[1] number of clients aged 18 and over in receipt of local authority funded residential or nursing care as at 31 March, England

Rounded number

	Total of all supported residents, England
1997	242,100
1998	255,500
1999	260,700
2000	265,400
2001	261,800
2002	264,800
2003[2]	284,100
2004[2, 3]	278,000
2005[2, 3]	266,200

Notes:

[1] Includes people in voluntary and private registered residential, general and mental health nursing homes, adults in un-staffed homes and adult placements/Shared Lives.

[2] Includes clients formerly in receipt of preserved rights.

[3] Includes Boyd loophole residents.

Source:

SR1 Return, table S1.

From 2006, the numbers in adult placements/Shared Lives were collected separately. Table 2 shows the numbers of adults—aged 18 and over—in local authority funded residential and nursing care and numbers in adult placements/Shared Lives, as at 31 March for the years 2006 to 2008 in England. Information for 2009 is expected to be published in early 2010.

Table 2: Total[1] number of clients aged 18 and over in receipt of local authority funded residential or nursing care as at 31 March, England

Rounded number

	Total of all supported residents[1]	*Total of all supported residents in registered[2] accommodation*	*Adult Placements/Shared lives*
2006[3, 4]	259,200	256,900	2,200
2007[3, 4]	250,200	247,300	2,900
2008[3, 4]	239,100	236,100	2,900

Notes:

[1] Includes people in voluntary and private registered residential, general and mental health nursing homes, adults in un-staffed homes and adult placements/Shared Lives.

[2] Registered accommodation excludes adult placements/Shared Lives. These data were collected separately from 2006 onwards.

[3] Includes clients formerly in receipt of preserved rights.

[4] Includes Boyd loophole residents.

Source:

SR1 Return, table S1.

Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 260W, on care homes: food, in what ways Ministers are considering the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board's report; whether his Department is to exercise any editorial control over the content of the report as it is to be published; and if he will make a statement; [297973]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 268W, on nutrition, in what ways Ministers are considering the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board's report; and if he will make a statement. [298290]

Phil Hope: The Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board's report contains 21 recommendations, covering various aspects of nutrition, some aimed at Government and some at organisations outside Government. In order to prepare a response to these recommendations, it has been necessary to consult with the relevant policy interests, within Government and outside organisations.

The report was written by the chair of the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board, in collaboration with the board membership. It is an independent report and was produced on the understanding that the Government would not have any editorial control over the content.

When a response to the report's recommendations is finalised, a copy of the report, as drafted by the chair of the board, together with the Government's response, will be placed in the Library.

Organ Donors

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of his response to the review of allocation of organs to non-UK EU residents conducted by Elizabeth Buggins. [298289]

Ann Keen: The Department issued a press release on 31 July 2009 setting out the immediate steps it would take to implement the recommendations in Elizabeth Buggins' report. A copy of the press release has been placed in the Library.

Social Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the social care workforce action plan announced in the Social Care Green Paper. [298284]

Phil Hope: "Working to Put People First: The Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy in England", was launched in April 2009. The strategy has been jointly produced between the Department and its key sector partners through the Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy Board.

The Strategy sets out the intention to 'commission a renewed sector workforce action plan from our delivery partners to take account of Department of Health workforce policy priorities'.

The Department is currently working closely with our key partners in the social care sector to develop an action plan for the adult social care workforce of the future.

The Department will aim to publish this plan later this year.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the *(a)* assessment and *(b)* funding proposals in the Social Care Green Paper are based solely on the level of need. [298374]

Phil Hope: In developing the Green Paper, the Department asked the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) to forecast the likely levels of need for care and support until 2026. The methodology used to do this was published by PSSRU in July 2009 at:

www.pssru.ac.uk/pdf/dp2644.pdf

The funding options look at different ways to bring money into the system to meet the forecasted levels of need. The different funding options consider both needs and means. The options under consideration are:

Pay for yourself—where all individuals are responsible for meeting their own care costs. This was ruled out because it would leave many people without the care and support they need;

Partnership—where everyone who qualified for care and support would be entitled to have a set proportion, for example a quarter or a third of their costs paid for by the state. People who were less well off would have more care paid for, while the least well off people would continue to get all their care free;

Insurance—under which everyone would be entitled to have a share of their costs of their care and support met by the state but would go further to help people cover the additional costs of their care and support through insurance if they wanted to;

Comprehensive—where everyone over retirement age who had the resources to do so would be required to pay into a state insurance scheme. Then everyone whose needs meant they qualified for care and support would get all of their basic care and support free when they needed it. It would be possible to vary how much people had to pay according to how much they could afford. The size of people's contribution could be set according to what savings or assets they had so that the system was affordable for people who were less well off; and

Tax funded—where people would get all of their basic care free and would pay throughout their lives through tax. This was ruled out because it places a heavy burden on people of working age.

Swine Flu

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice he has given to NHS trusts on maintaining sufficient capacity to deal with swine influenza cases; whether any such advice is mandatory or advisory; and if he will make a statement. [298248]

Gillian Merron: We continue to base our planning work with the national health service for the H1N1 pandemic on independent expert advice. The latest assumptions that we published on 22 October assume that, over this pandemic wave, up to a further 35,000 people who become ill with H1N1 may require hospitalisation. This would be above normal winter levels of flu activity and all NHS organisations have been planning to handle this if necessary, for both adult and paediatric services.

On 22 October, the National Director of NHS Flu Resilience wrote to NHS trusts to inform them of the revised assumptions and reiterate the need to maintain services for all patients over the winter period. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library.

In April this year the Department published guidance on "Managing Demand and Capacity in Health Care organisations (Surge)". The document gives guidance on measures the NHS can take to handle the pressures it will face, including in providing paediatric care during a pandemic. A copy of the guidance has already been placed in the Library.

To further support local planning, on 10 September a strategy for critical care services entitled, "Critical care strategy: managing the H1N1 flu pandemic (September 2009)", was published that in part sets out how the NHS would work to substantially increase availability of paediatric intensive care beds should this be required at the peak of the pandemic. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

The local NHS will take steps locally to manage demand from swine influenza following guidance and advice, as they do with all other pressures at other times.

West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished consultant episodes there were *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each speciality at West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust in each of the last five years. [297527]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Number of finished consultant episodes in West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust by main specialty, 2004-05 to 2008-09

Main specialty description	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Numbers* *2008-09*
Total	91,662	89,579	86,439	84,831	87,469
Accident and Emergency (A&E)	3,334	4,800	4,674	4,375	2,847
Allied Health Professional Episode	0	0	0	*	0
Anaesthetics	462	596	511	509	676
Cardiology	3,308	3,691	3,889	4,672	4,374
Clinical Haematology	2,583	1,928	2,228	2,384	2,244
Clinical Oncology (previously Radiotherapy)	4,766	820	530	504	422
Critical Care Medicine	0	0	0	0	34

Number of finished consultant episodes in West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust by main specialty, 2004-05 to 2008-09

Numbers

Main specialty description	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Dermatology	551	252	27	26	11
Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT)	1,090	1,236	1,264	1,247	1,366
Endocrinology	200	129	95	309	391
Gastroenterology	5,767	5,872	6,946	6,518	8,564
General Medicine	8,914	9,313	9,207	4,740	4,366
General Surgery	9,900	9,697	9,829	9,454	9,357
Genitourinary Medicine	*	0	0	0	0
Geriatric Medicine	7,501	7,313	6,197	8,810	8,080
Gynaecology	4,487	4,379	4,547	4,110	3,789
Immunopathology	112	138	127	126	133
Learning Disability (previously Mental Health)	*	0	0	0	0
Medical Oncology	748	292	69	108	87
Midwife episode	0	0	148	95	1,426
Nephrology	46	20	*	*	9
Neurology	17	17	31	35	9
Not known	*	0	*	0	0
Obstetrics	8,794	8,619	8,613	9,959	9,682
Ophthalmology	1,841	2,074	2,037	2,353	2,563
Oral Surgery	706	613	602	675	2,110
Paediatrics	4,998	5,430	7,112	8,378	9,008
Palliative Medicine	331	0	0	*	0
Plastic Surgery	7,712	8,018	3,899	0	0
Respiratory Medicine (Thoracic Medicine)	1,225	1,714	1,727	2,786	2,773
Rheumatology	502	816	852	590	642
Trauma and Orthopaedics	7,246	7,390	7,156	7,888	8,266
Urology	4,532	4,502	4,109	4,167	4,240

Notes:

1. A finished consultant episode (FCE) is defined as a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. It should be noted that the figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

2. 'Consultant main speciality' is defined as the specialty under which the consultant responsible for the care of the patient at that time is registered. Care is needed when analysing hospital episode statistics (HES) data by specialty, or by groups of specialties (such as "acute"). Trusts have different ways of managing specialties and attributing codes so it is better to analyse by specific diagnoses, operations or other patient or service information.

3. A provider code is a unique code that identifies an organisation acting as a health care provider (e.g. NHS trust or primary care trust). Hospital providers can also include Treatment Centres (TC). TCs (also known as Diagnostic Centres) provide elective (planned) surgery for a range of conditions, mainly for day surgery or short-term hospital stay patients. Some Treatment Centres are attached to hospital trusts and HES enables data for these to be separately identified from the rest of the health care provider's data. It does this by adding TC to the trust code; if there is more than one per trust T1, T2, T3 etc. are suggested unless already in use by the trust. Activity performed in the remainder of the trust is identified by the health care provider code being followed by an 'X'. Hospital providers beginning with an 'N' indicates an independent sector health care provider.

4. To protect patient confidentiality, figures between one and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) has been suppressed.

5. HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the national health service have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

6. HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

7. Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Source:

HES, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

JUSTICE

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Christmas functions arranged by his Department and its agencies *(a)* he, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* officials of its agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2008; what the cost to the public purse was; and if he will make a statement. [295452]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is set out as follows:

Secretary of State

I hosted one Christmas function in 2008. This was an event attended by approximately 50 members of the national media. The total cost of the function was £1,199.90 (excluding VAT). This expenditure included the provision of finger food and beverages, and the cost of staffing and equipment.

I did not attend any Christmas functions arranged by the Ministry or its agencies other than the one I hosted above.

Officials at the Department and its agencies

The Department and its agencies do not fund Christmas parties, although staff may personally contribute towards the cost of such an event.

Attendance at and hosting of hospitality events, including Christmas parties, by Department and agency staff is recorded in local hospitality registers, in accordance with Ministry of Justice policy. These data are not collated centrally, and gathering information from local registers (including operational establishments) would be possible only at disproportionate cost.

Details of the Corporate Management Board hospitality register 2007, for hospitality received, has been published externally on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/civil_service/hospitality.aspx

The hospitality register has not been updated for 2008 yet.

At any time of year, awards may be made through the reward and recognition scheme in line with departmental guidelines for team celebrations, including modest parties.

Court Funds Office: Fees and Charges

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the fee income of the Court Funds Office was in 2008-09. [297988]

Bridget Prentice: The Court Funds Office did not receive any fee income in 2008-09. CFO has no statutory ability to charge fees so does not receive an income from fees.

The statutory responsibilities of the Court Funds Office are set out in the Supreme Court Act 1981 and the Administration of Justice Act 1982 (AJA). CFO's operational responsibilities are defined further in the Court Funds Rules 1987. These pieces of legislation do not give CFO the power to levy any fees on its clients.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what fees and charges were covered by the reference to fees and charges levied by the Court Funds Office on page 96 of his Department's Resource Accounts 2008-09. [297990]

Bridget Prentice: The reference to fees and charges in the 2008-09 MoJ Resources Accounts is for accounting purposes. CFO has no statutory ability to charge fees to its clients.

As set out on page 97 of the 2008-09 MoJ Resource Accounts, the CFO generally recovers the full cost of operations from the UK Debt Management Office each year on a reimbursement basis, in accordance with the Administration of Justice Act 1982. The large surplus in 2008-09 has arisen because of a change in the basis on which income is recognised from cash to accruals. The income reflects £7.5 million in relation to costs incurred in 2007-08 and £5.8 million in relation to costs incurred in 2008-09. In future, fees and expenditure will be on the same basis and will be aligned.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of the fee income of the Court Funds Office in 2008-09 related to *(a)* Court of Protection cases, *(b)* payments into court and *(c)* unclaimed balances. [297991]

Bridget Prentice: The Court Funds Office did not receive any fee income in 2008-09. CFO has no statutory ability to charge fees so does not receive an income from fees.

The statutory responsibilities of the Court Funds Office are set out in the Supreme Court Act 1981 and the Administration of Justice Act 1982 (AJA). CFO's operational responsibilities are defined further in the Court Funds Rules 1987. These pieces of legislation do not give CFO the power to levy any fees on its clients.

Courts

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the merits of using virtual courts; and if he will make a statement. [297537]

Claire Ward: A pilot of Virtual Courts began in May 2009 and is currently operating at 15 police stations in London, linked to Camberwell Green magistrates court; and one police station in Kent, linked to Medway magistrates court.

Virtual Courts enable defendants to appear in a magistrates' court for a first hearing while still physically located in the police station where they are charged. As at 30 October 2009, the pilot had dealt with 263 cases. Where cases can be heard on the same day that the defendant is charged, the average time from charge to first hearing is four hours. More than half of defendants have been sentenced at their Virtual Court hearing.

The evaluation of the pilot is now underway and is due to report in September 2010. This will provide an assessment of the extent to which Virtual Courts enable resources to be used more efficiently. It will also explore the wider impact of the Virtual Court process to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the fairness of the process for defendants, and gather feedback from victims, witnesses and practitioners.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials while overseas in each of the last three years. [294692]

Mr. Straw: Since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500 which can be found at the following link:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

The Ministry's accounting system does not separately identify the amount spent on overnight accommodation overseas. These costs are subsumed within the broader category of "overseas travel and subsistence" which includes travel and meals as well as accommodation costs, and includes costs incurred by Ministers as well as officials. Expenditure on this 'wider' category of expenditure in the first two financial years of the Ministry's existence, rounded to the nearest £000, is as follows:

	£000
2008-09	420
2007-08	524

These figures exclude the 42 local probation boards and trusts as this information is held locally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

All overseas travel and subsistence is completed in line with the Staff Pay and Allowances Handbook, which states that all travel and accommodation should be by the most economical means possible, bearing in mind business need.

Employers' Liability: Insurance

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on the establishment of an employers' liability insurance bureau as an insurance fund of last resort for persons disabled by asbestos; and if he will make a statement. [297719]

Bridget Prentice: As part of its considerations on pleural plaques and other issues relating to asbestos-related diseases the Government are examining the process for tracking and tracing employment and insurance records, as well as looking into the support given to individuals who are unable to trace such records. Representations on these issues, including the possibility of an employers' liability insurance bureau, have been received from a number of interested organisations and individuals.

Housing: Sales

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many domestic property transactions were recorded by the Land Registry in each region in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available. [298672]

Mr. Wills: The following table shows the total number of registered residential properties sold at full value[1] in each region of England and Wales in the requested timeframe:

[1] Full value = residential property transactions where the full price has been paid. The figures exclude a number of transactions including, Right to Buy sales at a discount, properties sold by way of a gift, and properties sold under a compulsory purchase order or a court order.

Region name	*July to September 2009*	*April to June 2009*	*January to March 2009*	*October to December 2008*
North	7,660	7,214	5,069	6,846
North West	15,649	13,999	9,932	13,472
Yorks and Humber	13,839	12,493	8,667	12,315
Wales	7,590	6,845	4,558	6,421
West Midlands	13,794	11,639	8,227	11,078
East Midlands	13,536	11,854	7,827	11,017
East Anglia	9,080	7,543	4,724	6,433
South West	20,562	17,034	10,630	14,111
South East	43,539	34,551	22,573	29,127
Greater London	21,105	15,284	10,744	13,984
All regions	166,354	138,456	92,951	124,804

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many properties registered with the Land Registry changed ownership in each of the last six months. [298673]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry is able to provide information on the total number of registered residential properties sold at full value[1] in each of the last six months for which figures are available. As these figures are extracted using price paid data, no information is available for any properties which have not been sold. The only way to identify other changes of ownership would be to extract data regarding every application over the time period asked for. This could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

[1] Full value = residential property transactions where the full price has been paid. The figures exclude a number of transactions including, right to buy sales at a discount, properties sold by way of a gift, and properties sold under a compulsory purchase order or a court order.

	Total sales (as at 31 October 2009)
April 2009	39,754
May 2009	45,716
June 2009	52,986
July 2009	61,483
August 2009	55,146
September 2009	49,725

Legal aid

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for legal aid from residents of *(a)* St. Albans constituency, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* the East of England there were in each of the last five years. [297530]

Bridget Prentice: Applications for civil legal aid advice are made to individual providers, and we record the number of instances of advice provided, rather than the number of applications made. Applications for civil legal aid representation are made to the Legal Services Commission. Not all applications are granted. The applications received for representation for the last five years in the requested areas is as follows:

Financial year	*St. Albans*[1]	*Hertfordshire*	*East of England*
2004-2005	356	2,120	15,732
2005-2006	347	2,114	15,498
2006-2007	415	2,000	14,935
2007-2008	346	1,691	13,365
2008-2009	330	1,848	13,670

[1] This covers the St. Albans local authority district area.

Magistrates Courts: Wales

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to reduce the costs of enforcement and collection at magistrates courts in Wales. [297791]

Bridget Prentice: HMCS is currently in the process of implementing the HMCS Criminal Compliance and Enforcement Services: A Blueprint for 2008 to 2012 across England and Wales. The Blueprint sets out HMCS's strategic objective for enforcement which is for a cheaper, faster and more proportionate system that primarily focuses on 'first time' compliance while continuing to apply the principles of rigorous enforcement to the hard core of defaulters. Wales is currently developing and implementing plans to increase compliance with court orders and make more efficient use of resources.

The rollout of the HMCS Modernising Money Handling Project (MMHP) in Wales has also contributed to reducing costs associated with collection of financial penalties. The objective of the MMHP was to provide an enhanced range of payment methods that optimise accessibility, convenience and low cost for the fine payer and HMCS by maximising the use of electronic payment methods. The automated systems introduced have reduced the costs associated with cash handling and processing of payments.

National victims service

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had on the effectiveness of the national victims service; and if he will make a statement. [298217]

Mr. Straw: On 29 September at the Labour party conference I announced my intention to create a national victims' service. I and my officials have discussed the development of the national victims service with a range of partners including: Gillian Guy, chief executive of Victim Support, the Commissioner of Metropolitan Police and Sara Payne, the Victims' Champion. This service is currently being developed and the effectiveness of the service in meeting victims' needs will be core to its development.

Penalty Notices for Disorder

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps are being taken to increase levels of co-ordination between police constabularies to ensure that penalty notices for disorder are not repeatedly issued to the same offender. [297536]

Mr. Straw: A 24-hour fixed penalty database (PentiP) will be available nationally from 2011. The system will record details of all PNDs and road traffic fixed penalties. At present, police officers can access the Police National Computer which records some, but not all, PNDs, as well as local records to identify if someone has previously received a PND.

Operational guidance issued to the police states that a penalty notice may not be appropriate for issue where it is known that the suspect has been issued with a number of tickets for disorder offences in the recent past. Revised operational guidance to forces on the issue of PNDs for retail theft and criminal damage was issued on 16 July 2009, making it clear that, for these offences, only one ticket is appropriate. Guidance on PNDs for cannabis possession makes it clear that only one ticket should be issued, as part of the police three-stage escalation enforcement procedure for the offence.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has made an assessment of the efficiency gains made by police forces consequent on the introduction of penalty notices for disorder; and if he will make a statement. [297533]

Mr. Straw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the then Minister of State for the Home Department (Mr. Coaker) on 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1772.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the merits of amending the operational guidance issued to police forces to ensure that penalty notices for disorder are issued in police custody; and if he will make a statement. [297535]

Mr. Straw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 91W.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the outcomes were of his Department's study of criminal histories and re-offending rates of penalty notice for disorder recipients for shop theft; and when that study will be published. [297538]

Mr. Straw: Provisional, unpublished results from a study of recipients of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) show that of a sample of 13,800 juvenile and adult offenders given a PND for theft during 2005, 33 per cent. reoffended within 12 months of receiving the PND. 35 per cent. of offenders receiving a PND for theft in 2005 had no previous convictions or cautions.

This study used data recorded on the police national computer and counted as a 'reoffence' any offence committed during the 12-month period that resulted in a conviction or caution. This estimate of reoffending cannot be directly compared to the published reoffending rates for three reasons:

> it includes offences leading to a caution as well as a conviction while the published National Statistics on adult reoffending counts only convictions;
>
> it covers offenders who in general have very different offending backgrounds to those in the published cohorts; which cover offenders discharged from prison and offenders commencing a court order under probation supervision; and
>
> it covers both juvenile and adult offenders together, whereas reoffending data are published separately for adults and juveniles.

The Ministry of Justice will, by the end of 2009, consult on plans to publish a range of reoffending related analyses that are not currently published. This consultation will include data on the criminal histories and reoffending of recipients of penalty notices for disorder.

Prisoners Release: Reoffenders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 742W, on prisoner release reoffenders, what the original conviction was of the two offenders released on end of custody licence who were later convicted of murder. [298386]

Mr. Straw: The original offences of the two offenders released on end of custody licence and who were later convicted of murder were assault (two counts) and possession of an offensive weapon respectively.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* adult prisons and *(b)* young offender institutions (i) had a body orifice security scanner (BOSS) chair and (ii) were using a BOSS chair on 1 June 2009; and how many discoveries of (A) illegal drugs and (B) mobile telephones had been made using those chairs on the latest date for which figures are available. [290753]

Maria Eagle: I have today issued a written ministerial statement to clarify details around the roll-out of the BOSS chairs. NOMS has now purchased and delivered at least one BOSS chair to every prison that did not already have one (five extra BOSS chairs were purchased for prisons with split sites)—128 in total. This includes the female, open and contracted estate, and nine prisons which have a main function as a young offenders' institution. Immigration removal centres were not included, as the use of mobile phones is not prohibited in those sites.

NOMS headquarters have not mandated how BOSS chairs must be used. As is the case for many searching technologies and techniques, the decision on how to use the BOSS chairs is for individual Governors to make, and will depend on their local circumstances, including their existing local searching strategies. The relevant Prison Service Instruction (PSI) states: "The frequency of searches using the BOSS and policies for its use are for local discretion".

The pattern of use will vary over time and it is not possible to say how many BOSS chairs are operational on any given day. According to a recent survey of BOSS chair usage, 115 prisons reported that the BOSS chair was in use. Reasons for non-operation include chairs awaiting repair or return from repairs and awaiting building work to accommodate the chair. Steps have been taken to improve the provision of maintenance services. Prisons deploy hand-held detection wands as an effective alternative.

NOMS does not hold records centrally of the number of mobile phones discovered using the BOSS chair. In order to provide the information requested, we would need to contact all Prison Service establishments, ask them to check their local records and to submit this information to headquarters. This would incur disproportionate cost. BOSS chairs are not designed to detect illegal drugs.

Prisons: Inspections

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 53-54WS, on temporary transfer of prisoners prior to inspection, whether the prisoners moved between HMP Pentonville and HMP Wandsworth were transferred by private contractors; and what record was kept of *(a)* the transfer of each prisoner and *(b)* the physical condition of each prisoner upon (i) departure and (ii) arrival. [297722]

Mr. Straw: All but two of the prisoners subject to temporary transfers between Wandsworth and Pentonville during May and June of this year were transferred by private contractors. Two prisoners were originally due to be transferred by private contractors from Wandsworth to Pentonville but, according to the investigation into these matters, were transferred by taxi, and escorted by prison officers.

All prisoner movements, within and between prisons, are recorded on the local inmate database. Furthermore, policy requires that all prisoner movements should have a prisoner escort record (PER) which contains all relevant information about a prisoner in addition to a documented chain of custody. It has not been possible, in the time available, to obtain the PERs of all the prisoners.

All the prisoners involved in these transfers were seen by a health care professional either on departure, arrival or both and had entries in their patient records to that effect. The substance of these records is covered by patient confidentiality.

Reoffenders

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will place in the Library copies of the power point presentations the Prime Minister has received since January 2007 on the effectiveness of policies to reduce re-offending rates; [297520]

(2) if he will place in the Library copies of the power point presentations he has received since January 2007 on the effectiveness of policies to reduce re-offending rates. [297521]

Mr. Straw: PowerPoint presentations form part of the advice Ministers receive on the development of policy. This policy development continues to evolve, and as such it would not be appropriate to place them in the Library at this time.

Reoffending rates are published annually as National Statistics in accordance with arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority. The latest statistics were published on 21 May 2009 and show that the rate of reoffending in 2007 has fallen by 11.1 per cent. for adult offenders and 7.5 per cent. for juvenile offenders compared to 2005 (this is set against a target to reduce reoffending by 10 per cent. between 2005 and 2011). The results of research evidence on the effectiveness of policies to reduce reoffending rates can be found on the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/research.htm

Reparation by Offenders

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made in the implementation of reducing re-offending pathways. [298709]

Maria Eagle: The reducing reoffending pathways were first proposed by the Social Exclusion Unit in their 2002 report 'Reducing Reoffending by Ex-Prisoners'. The concept was developed in the NOMS National Reducing Reoffending Action Plan (2004) and Delivery Plan (2005). The pathways have been embedded in the cross-government work informing the Delivery Plan for PSA 23: Priority Action 4 which seeks to reduce the volume and seriousness of adult reoffending.

The National Offender Management Service's 'Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09' states that all 16 of the targets relating to the reoffending pathways, were met. These included:

providing over 27,000 places on cognitive behavioural programmes;

providing over 12,000 places on drug programmes and Drug Rehabilitation Requirements;

ensuring that over 40 per cent. of offenders were employed at the termination of their licence;

ensuring that 26 per cent. of prisoners entered employment on release;

ensuring that 70 per cent. of offenders are in settled and suitable accommodation at the end of their order or licence; and

ensuring that 80 per cent. of prisoners move into settled accommodation upon release.

The Government will shortly publish 'Improving Health, Supporting Justice', a national delivery plan for improving health and social care services for all those in touch with the criminal justice system. This follows the publication of Lord Bradley's report looking at the needs of offenders with mental health and learning difficulties in April 2009.

A framework document 'Reducing Reoffending, Supporting Families, Creating Better Futures' was launched last week by the Department of Children Schools and Families (DCSF) and The Ministry of Justice (MOJ). The framework sets out the Departments' shared commitment to working in partnership to improve the delivery of services to the children and families of offenders.

Work with the Financial Services Authority, Legal Services Commission and the Department for Work and Pensions has helped to develop a consistent approach which will enable offenders to manage their finances.

The work that has been done within the pathways supports the Government's target to reduce the number of reoffences by 10 per cent. between 2005 and 2011. Reoffending rates are published annually as National Statistics in accordance with arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority. The latest statistics were published on 21 May 2009 and show that the rate of reoffending in 2007 has fallen by 11.1 per cent. for adult offenders and 7.5 per cent. for juvenile offenders compared to 2005 (this is set against a target to reduce reoffending by 10 per cent. between 2005 and 2011).

Shoplifting: Convictions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions there were for shoplifting in each of the last three years. [297554]

Mr. Straw: Information showing the number of defendants found guilty at all courts for stealing from shops and stalls (shoplifting) in England and Wales from 2005 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the table. Data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for shoplifting[1], England and Wales, 2005 to 2007[2, 3]

Offence	*Statute*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Stealing from shops and stalls (shoplifting)	Theft Act 1968 Section 1	64,076	58,536	62,565

[1] Stealing from "shops and stalls" (shoplifting) is an offence under Theft Act 1968, section 1.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Supreme Court: Costs

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many employees there are in the new Supreme Court; and what their total wage bill is for 2009-10. [296914]

Mr. Straw: There are 39 employees of the Supreme Court. The total pay wage bill for the first six months of the Court (October 2009 to March 2010) is £910,000. This figure is inclusive of ERNIC (earnings-related national insurance contributions) and ASLC (liability charges, including pension contributions).

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the salary is of the Chief Executive of the new Supreme Court. [296917]

Mr. Straw: The salary of the chief executive of the Supreme Court is £107,000 per annum.

Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his estimate is of the monetary value of the *(a)* fixed and *(b)* working capital contained in (i) prisons and (ii) young offender institutions (A) in total and (B) per person in custody in each case; and what methodology is used to calculate the values of land and buildings for these purposes. [296972]

Maria Eagle: Calculations for *(a)* fixed capital and *(b)* working capital are not produced for Prisons or Young Offender Institutions because the main financial ledgers (bank, accounts payable and accounts receivable) are held centrally. As a result we cannot give estimates per person in custody either. The National Offender Management Service (NOMS accounts for 2008-09 have been prepared in accordance with the 2008-09 Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) issued by HM Treasury, and the Accounts Direction issued by HM Treasury. The accounting policies in the FReM follow UK generally accepted accounting policies for companies (UK GAAP) to the extent that it is meaningful and appropriate to the public sector.

In accordance with accounting standards the custodial estate was subject to external revaluation at 31 March 2009. Land and Buildings relating to the custodial estate were valued by the Valuation Office Agency at £5.2 billion. Prisons are valued at depreciated replacement cost adopting where appropriate alternative site locations. The valuation was in accordance with the RICS Valuation Standards 6th Edition.

The NOMS Accounts for 2008-09 show details of fixed and working capital at total NOMS level and Note 7 provides full details of the most recent valuation of the land and buildings. A copy of the accounts is available in the House of Commons Library.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to promote the production of sustainable biofuels in the UK. [298368]

Joan Ruddock: The UK was instrumental in ensuring the EU renewable energy directive contains sustainability criteria that will apply from December 2010 to biofuels for transport and bioliquids for heat and electricity, used in the UK and in other European member states.

The directive also placed a requirement on the Commission to report on the need for sustainability criteria for the solid biomass used for heat and electricity by 31 December 2009, and to bring forward proposals as appropriate. Ahead of this, in April 2009, we introduced a sustainability reporting requirement to the Renewables Obligation for electricity generators over 50kW combusting biomass. In addition, grant applications to our energy crops scheme are subject to an environmental assessment.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the potential contribution of biodiesel produced from used cooking oil to the production of renewable electricity and heat. [298370]

Joan Ruddock: Estimates of the availability of used cooking oil (UCO) for biodiesel production were made as part of the WRAP/EA 2008 financial impact assessment report for the production and use of biodiesel derived from cooking oil and rendered animal fat (tallow). This states:

> "It is thought around 108Kt/yr of UCO is currently collected from catering premises"

and:

> "UCO from food factories is thought to be around 20Kt/yr."

The report points out that this latter material is of higher quality and is primarily used for animal feed. The report also quotes independent analysis by the university of Swansea (Jones, P. (2004). The Collection of Used Vegetable Oil at Civic Amenity Sites. MRES Thesis, university of Swansea) which suggests that up to 30,000 tonnes per year could be available from households. However, WRAP considers that domestically-derived used cooking oil is likely to be contaminated and of poor quality, requiring considerable cleaning and blending before it is suitable for conversion to biodiesel. In total, the report estimates that:

> "across all sources total UCO arisings are at least 250Kt/yr,"

much of which is poured down the drain or landfilled.

The report further estimates that approximately 82,000 tonnes of waste vegetable oil is being transformed into biodiesel each year for use in the transport, heat or power sectors, with approximately 20,000 tonnes/yr being exported, 5,000 tonnes/yr used in the oleochemical industry and 1,000 tonnes/yr either incinerated or used in CHP.

Carbon Emissions

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has received any recent representations on proposals for a zero-carbon economy. [296969]

Joan Ruddock: I am not aware of any recent representations to the Department on proposals for a zero-carbon economy.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the Swedish Presidency of the Council of Ministers on proposals for an international climate change agreement on carbon emissions. [298059]

Joan Ruddock: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is in frequent contact with the Swedish Environment Minister, Andreas Carlgren concerning all aspects of an International Climate Change Agreement, including emissions reduction proposals and targets. The Ministers most recently met to discuss this in Barcelona on 31 October and at Environment Council in Brussels on 21 October.

Coal

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many tonnes of coal have been produced in the UK in each of the last five years. [298352]

Mr. Kidney: The following table shows published figures on UK coal production for the last five years.

Thousand tonnes

	Deep-mined production	*Opencast production*	*Total production*[1]
2004	12,542	11,993	24,535

Thousand tonnes

	Deep-mined production	*Opencast production*	*Total production*[1]
2005	9,563	10,445	20,008
2006	9,444	8,635	18,079
2007	7,674	8,866	16,540
2008	8,096	9,509	17,604

[1] These figures exclude estimates of slurry recovered from ponds, dumps, rivers etc.

Source:

Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2009, Table 2.7, available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/source/coal/coal.aspx

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people have been employed in the UK coal industry in each of the last five years. [298353]

Mr. Kidney: The following table shows UK coal employment figures for the last five years.

	Average UK coal industry employment
2004	7,909
2005	6,536
2006	5,562
2007	5,411
2008	5,805

Source:

UK Coal Authority, available at:

http://www.coal.gov.uk/publications/miningtechnology/index.cfm

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services; and when each such contract expires. [296079]

Joan Ruddock: Since DECC's inception, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) manage the Department's estate, including mail services. I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by my hon. Friends the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Environment at DEFRA on 3 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 800W and the Minister of State for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs at BIS on 3 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 967W.

Electricity

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of electricity has been generated from *(a)* coal, *(b)* nuclear power, *(c)* renewables and *(d)* gas in each of the last five years. [298356]

Mr. Kidney: The percentage shares of UK electricity generation by coal, nuclear, renewables and gas, from 2004 to 2008 are given in the following table:

	Coal-fired electricity generation in the UK		*Nuclear electricity generation in the UK*		*Renewables sourced electricity generation in the UK*		*Gas-fired electricity generation in the UK*	
Total electricity generation in the UK	*GWh*	*Percentage share of total*	*GWh*	*Percentage share of total*	*GWh*	*Percentage share of total*	*GWh*	*Percentage share of total*
393,929 GWh	131,788	33.5	79,999	20.3	14,147	3.6	157,064	39.9
398,303 GWh	134,637	33.8	81,618	20.5	16,940	4.3	152,642	38.3
397,292 GWh	149,214	37.6	75,451	19.0	18,116	4.6	140,828	35.4
397,044 GWh	136,545	34.4	63,028	15.9	19,646	4.9	165,784	41.5
389,649 GWh	125,315	32.2	52,486	13.5	21,597	5.5	176,749	45.4

Energy Supply

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the Government's latest estimate is of the *(a)* date and *(b)* level of peak global production of (i) oil, (ii) gas, (iii) coal and (iv) uranium-235. [297575]

Mr. Kidney: The Government do not estimate global resources. Data are available from a range of publications—the International Energy Agency (hereafter IEA) is an authoritative source. The Government do, however, publish the Energy Markets Outlook, an annual report on UK Security of Supply, which includes discussion of longer term availability of fuels.

Domestically, the UK has only recently passed an ambitious Climate Change Act and DECC has recently published the UK low carbon transition plan. Our climate change and energy security policies outlined there are not only reducing the UK's carbon emissions, but are consistent with the need to reduce our use of fossil fuels. In addition, the Government are reforming the regulatory framework for planning and consents through the Energy and Planning Acts 2008, which will help to improve the security of our energy supplies.

For information, the following provides information on future supplies for each fuel.

(i) Oil

The IEA's view[1] is that there are reserves to meet demand at least through to 2030, if sufficient investment in production capacity is forthcoming. Thus the immediate risk to oil production is not the level of resources and reserves, but the world's ability to convert these reserves into production now and in the long run. The UK recognises that tight oil markets could lead to high and volatile oil prices with potential negative effects on the economy.

(ii) Gas

As with oil, the IEA foresees that gas reserves are more than sufficient to meet demand to 2030, with remaining reserves more than doubling since 1980, and by more than 15 per cent. for every year since 2000. Moreover, despite rising annual production, new discoveries presently exceeded production. The IEA therefore forecasts that production will be able to meet the growth in demand until at least 2030.

(iii) Coal

According to the Department of Energy and Climate Change's December 2008 Energy Market Outlook, coal is the most abundant fossil fuel in terms of reserves. These reserves are geographically well dispersed, with economically recoverable reserves in more than 70 countries worldwide. The IEA similarly suggests that there are more than enough coal reserves to meet the growth in global demand until 2030. However, sufficient investment will be needed in new mining projects and prospecting.

(iv) Nuclear

The OECD/NEA and IAEA collates information about uranium resources and publishes a comprehensive report[2] every two years. The OECD/NEA concluded in a forward looking report on nuclear energy in November 2008[3] that identified uranium resources are sufficient to fuel an expansion of global nuclear generating capacity, without reprocessing, at least until 2050. Based on regional geological data, resources that are expected to exist could increase uranium supply to several hundreds of years.

References:

[1] As outlined in their World Energy Outlook 2008 (published in November 2008). Any references to the IEA are taken from this publication.

[2] The most recent report was published in June 2008. Uranium 2007: Resources, Production and Demand ("The Red Book").

[3] Nuclear Energy Outlook. OECD/NEA, November 2008.

Energy: Housing

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what change in average Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) ratings of *(a)* all and *(b)* new-build housing stock in England has been achieved in each SAP band A to G in each year since 2005; what assessment he has made of how the actual energy rating of new-build houses corresponds with that predicted by their developers; what representations he has received on the post-build level of energy efficiency in new-build houses; and if he will make a statement. [297459]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The English House Condition Survey reports annually on the energy efficiency of the housing stock as a whole. The proportion of housing in England in each energy efficiency rating band between 2005 and 2007 (the latest estimates available) are set out in the following table.

Housing stock (England) by energy efficiency rating band, 2005 to 2007

	Band A/B	*Band C*	*Band D*	*Band E*	*Band F*	*Band G*
2005	0.1	6.8	27.7	41.7	19.3	4.4
2006	0.2	7.0	29.8	41.3	17.5	4.3
2007	0.2	7.7	33.0	39.9	15.3	4.0

Note:

The rating bands are based on the energy efficiency (SAP) rating with band A indicating the most efficient and band G the least efficient housing. The number of dwellings in band A is too small for the sample survey to provide a robust estimate and therefore bands A and B have been combined.

Source:

English House Condition Survey.

The proportion of housing in more energy efficient bands A to D increased from 35 per cent. to 41 per cent. of the whole stock over this period. Over the same period, the proportion in the less efficient bands F and G fell from 24 per cent. to 19 per cent.

In line with procedure for the publication of official statistics, the data for the average SAP rating of new-build housing and are being published on 10 November.

The Department recently completed a joint project with the Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes (EEPfH) looking at compliance levels for new homes built to the standards required by the 2006 amendment of Part L (Conservation of fuel and power) of the Building Regulations. Two reports have been published at the EEPfH website at

www.eeph.org.uk.

The Department has received representations from a range of interests about compliance with the Building Regulations.

Fuel Poverty

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* the East of England and *(d)* England are living in fuel poverty. [295410]

Mr. Kidney: The most recently available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2006, and shows that there were around 2,900 fuel poor households in the Mid-Bedfordshire constituency and around 12,500 fuel poor households in Bedfordshire.

More recent figures are available for England and the regions. These show that in 2007, there were around 253,000 fuel poor households in the east of England and 2.8 million fuel poor households in England.

Hydrogen

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the merits of underground storage of hydrogen fuel cells. [297461]

Mr. Kidney: We have assumed that the question is intended to refer to the underground storage of hydrogen, not hydrogen fuel cells.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change has not made an assessment of the merits of underground storage of hydrogen.

Underground storage of hydrogen in geologically suitable sites could provide a useful buffering capacity to enable supply to be matched to demand. Such a situation could arise if the UK were to achieve a high market penetration of fuel cell powered vehicles, but this is not expected to occur until 2020 or later. Hydrogen is in widespread use in oil refineries and as an industrial chemical. Hydrogen has been stored successfully in salt caverns in Teesside to meet the demands of the petrochemical industry.

Microgeneration: Government Assistance

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to promote on-site micro-generation projects. [297709]

Joan Ruddock: The Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) is our £131 million grant programme offering funding for small scale onsite energy technologies to householders, public, community and not-for profit-sectors.

Phase 1 (currently open to householders) was recently extended from 1 July 2010 until March 2011 with an additional budget of £1 million for 2009-10 and £5 million for 2010-11. To date Phase 1 of the programme has committed £24.6 million to 12,175 projects.

Phase 2 of the programme (community, public/non profit sector)—has already allocated over £62 million to 2,851 projects. This part of the programme was also extended from 1 July 2009 until 30 March 2011 with a budget of £39 million for 2009-10 and £10 million for 2010-11. The extension will continue to provide grant funding to charitable, community groups and public sector organisation projects.

Working with the Energy Saving Trust (EST) we are publicising the Phase 1 householder funding stream through a network of local energy advice centres providing information and the Act on CO_2 website and helpline to inform and assist consumers.

We will shortly be implementing a promotional campaign for Phase 2 through a series of 'road shows' and presentations in all English regions, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland—raising awareness of the fact that organisations can apply for 50 per cent. of the cost for installing approved technologies up to a maximum of £200,000 per application. We hope to see as many projects as possible coming forward to achieve their ambitions and install small scale onsite technologies.

Planning regulations for domestic small scale renewable energy installations which have little or no impact beyond the host property have been relaxed and we have introduced the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) providing improved consumer confidence in the quality and reliability of microgeneration products and installations.

We have enhanced incentives to install microgeneration technologies with increased support through the Renewables Obligation (which places an obligation on UK suppliers of electricity to source an increasing proportion of their electricity from renewable sources). Going forward, two new financial incentives will have a real impact on pushing small scale onsite energy technologies into the forefront of our energy future. Feed-in tariffs for electricity will act as a major incentive for the development of the market up to 5 MW, and we are working to have feed-in tariffs in place in April 2010.

Our Renewable Heat Incentive or payments for every kilowatt of renewable heat produced will be one of the world's first financial mechanisms to support renewable heat technologies. Like the feed-in tariffs, our aim is to make the RHI as accessible, flexible and user-friendly as possible to potential investors in renewable heat at all scales, from the household scale up to the large industrial scale.

Natural Gas: Prices

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make it his policy to *(a)* estimate the level of profits made by gas companies which do not adjust their charges in line with a reduction in energy prices and *(b)* assess the effects on consumers of the practices of such companies. [297299]

Mr. Kidney: Energy suppliers often buy gas and electricity many months in advance in order to protect from short-term fluctuations in wholesale costs. This generally results in a time lag between wholesale and retail price movements. In response to a request from the Government, the regulator Ofgem now reports on a quarterly basis on movements in wholesale costs, suppliers' margins and retail prices. This is leading to a greater transparency in the relationship between these factors. Ofgem is also responsible for monitoring and promoting competition in these markets.

Nuclear Power Stations

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with each company which has expressed an interest in building new nuclear power plants on *(a)* setting a floor price for carbon, *(b)* updating insurance arrangements for new-build reactors and *(c)* the financing of radioactive waste management and decommissioning of new nuclear power plants in the last 12 months; and if he will publish the minutes of each meeting with each such company. [297543]

Mr. Kidney: Ministers meet regularly with a range of energy companies and other organisations, and discuss a large number of issues, including issues related to new nuclear power stations. Ministers will continue to do so in the future.

Oil Fired Power Stations

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many tonnes of oil were burned to produce electricity in oil-fired power stations in the UK in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [298061]

Mr. Kidney: The following table shows published figures on the oil used in UK power stations for 2005 to 2008:

Million tonnes

	Oil used by major power producers	*Oil used by other generators*	*Total oil used in generation*
2005	0.79	0.42	1.22
2006	0.81	0.47	1.28
2007	0.54	0.44	0.99
2008	0.84	0.41	1.25

Note:
This also includes oil used in power stations where co-fired with coal, gas and biomass.
Source:
Digest of UK Energy Statistics, 2009, Table 5.4, available at: http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/stallstics/source/electricity/electricity.aspx

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many kilowatt hours of electricity were produced via oil-fired power stations produced in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [298062]

Mr. Kidney: The following table shows the amount of oil-fired generation between 2005 and 2008.

GWh

	Major power producers	*Other generators*	*Total oil-fired generation*
2005	2,921	2,417	5,388
2006	3,359	2,450	5,809
2007	2,401	2,331	4,732
2008	3,667	2,434	6,101

Note:

This also includes oil's share of generation when co-fired with other fuels.

Source:

Digest of UK Energy Statistics, 2009, Table 5.6, available at: http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/source/electricity/electricity.aspx

Renewable Energy

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the relative costs and benefits of *(a)* photovoltaic tiles and *(b)* wind turbines. [295872]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 26 October 2009]*: The analysis underpinning Renewable Energy Strategy, published in July 2009, used assumptions on the generating costs of different electricity generating technologies to 2020, full details of which are set out in Element (2009) and Redpoint/Trilemma (2009), which are available on the DECC website. The following table summarises these assumptions with respect to solar photovoltaic and wind generation in 2009.

Technology (source)	*Capital expenditure (£/kW)*	*Operating expenditure (£/kW/year)*	*Load factor (percentage)*	*Technology life (years)*
Solar photovoltaics up to 5000kW in size (Element, 2009)	4,000-5,300	20-44	~10	25
Wind 15kW to 5000kW in size (Element, 2009)	1,500-3,000	44-74	2-32	10-20
Onshore wind large-scale (Redpoint/Trilemma, 2009)	1,172-1,329	40	21-29	20
Offshore wind (Redpoint/Trilemma, 2009)	2,159-3,036	68	35-41	20

Wind generation in the UK generally faces lower capital costs and higher operating costs than solar photovoltaic generation.

Each unit of energy from new wind and photovoltaic installations are assumed to replace an equivalent supply of conventional electricity generation. The conventional electricity would be produced at a lower generation cost, and wind and photovoltaic generation thus impose a resource cost on the UK economy.

However, both wind and photovoltaic generation involve very low level of carbon dioxide emissions over their lifetimes. By replacing conventional electricity generation, wind and photovoltaics reduce the carbon dioxide emissions from the electricity sector, and thus a unit of energy from either creates the same carbon-related benefits through reducing the number of EU Allowances for greenhouse gas emissions the UK electricity sector has to buy within the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (or increasing the number to sell). Other costs and benefits of renewables deployment, such as those relating to security of supply and the wider economy, are considered in the impact assessment for the Renewable Energy Strategy.

Both wind and solar photovoltaics are expected to play important roles in achieving the UK's 2020 renewables target.

Renewable Energy: Developing Countries

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on technology transfers to developing nations to enable them to harness renewable energy and combat climate change. [297914]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 5 November 2009]*: The Government are pushing for an ambitious, effective and fair agreement at the 15th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Copenhagen; the agreement will drive the development of climate technologies and their deployment in developing countries. My ministerial colleagues and I have had many discussions with counterparts in other countries' Governments over recent months on the issue of technology and climate change. These have been through multilateral fora such as the Major Economies Forum and the Danish-hosted Greenland Dialogue, as well as bilaterally. In October, Lord Hunt attended the "Delhi High Level Conference on Climate Change: Technology Deployment and Transfer" hosted by the Indian Government.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he plans to have before the United Nations Climate Change Conference with his international counterparts on technology transfers to developing nations to enable them to harness renewable energy and combat climate change. [297916]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 5 November 2009]*: The Government are pushing for an ambitious, effective and fair agreement in Copenhagen that will drive the development of climate technologies and their deployment in developing countries. Ministers from the Department of Energy and Climate Change have had many discussions with their international counterparts on the issue of technology and climate change and will continue to do so in the run-up to the 15th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Copenhagen.

Warm Front Scheme

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1152W, on the Warm Front Scheme, what proportion of households received second surveys in each month since July 2009. [297131]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* The following table indicates the proportion of second surveys carried out as percentage of the total surveys in each month since July 2009. This proportion is considerably higher than the overall proportion referred to in my previous answer because the increases in the Warm Front grant maxima, announced in April 2009, have meant that more households have been able to return to the scheme for additional measures.

Month	*Proportion (percentage)*
July 2009	17
August 2009	15
September 2009	13

Warm Front Scheme: Mobile Homes

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what products are being trialled for inclusion in the Warm Front scheme for the heating and insulation of park home properties; where such trials are taking place; and what criteria are being used to assess their suitability for inclusion in the scheme. [296858]

Mr. Kidney: Warm Front will be undertaking a piloting exercise of insulation technologies for park home properties. Technologies will be assessed against a variety of criteria, including cost of installation, energy savings and customer satisfaction. Details of the pilot, including the specific technology types and target areas, are currently being finalised.

Wind Power

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the effects on local communities of the siting of wind turbines near them. [297968]

Mr. Kidney: The Department has not made any recent assessment on the effects on local communities of the siting of wind farms near them.

However, DECC carries out an annual survey on renewable energy awareness and attitudes. The results of the 2009 annual survey were published on 5 November 2009. It revealed that 62 per cent. of the general public would be happy to live within five kilometres (three miles) of a wind power development. Those who reported being influenced by living near to a renewable energy development were more likely to agree with this statement compared with those who did not (79 per cent. compared to 58 per cent.), as had been found in previous years of the same survey.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of progress on installation of wind powered generation to contribute to his 2020 targets. [298378]

Mr. Kidney: We currently have 4 gigawatts (GW) of operational wind power. Electricity generation from offshore wind increased by 67 per cent. from 2007 to 2008 alone. We also achieved a 29 per cent. increase in electricity generation from onshore wind over the same period.

The UK does not have any targets for wind power generation in 2020. However, under the lead scenario in the recently published Renewable Energy Strategy, more than 30 per cent. of our electricity could be generated from renewables by 2020. Much of this would be from onshore and offshore wind.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the declared net capacity is of onshore windfarms in the UK; and what percentage of his wind targets for 2020 that figure represents. [298379]

Mr. Kidney: The total declared net capacity of wind power in 2008 was 1,432 megawatts (MW). Onshore wind's share of this was 1,188 MW[1]. The UK does not have any targets for wind power generation in 2020. However, under the lead scenario in the recently published Renewable Energy Strategy, more than 30 per cent. of our electricity could be generated from renewables by 2020. Much of this would be from onshore and offshore wind.

[1] Source:

DUKES 2009, table 7.1.1:

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/source/renewables/renewabkes.aspx

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Dams

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on whether the Kajaki Dam in Afghanistan is fully operational. [297885]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has completed the rehabilitation of the two existing Kajaki Dam hydroelectric turbines, restoring them to their full operational capacity. Their combined generation produces approximately 33 megawatts of electricity, which is enough electricity for about 200,000 people.

The rehabilitation of the second of these turbines was completed in October 2009, and will double the generation capacity available to Helmand and Kandahar Provinces. Additionally, in September 2009 the construction of a new substation and electricity grid was completed, improving the electrical distribution efficiency for Lashkar Gah city.

USAID is committed to installing a third unit at Kajaki which would increase the generation capacity to 51 megawatts, and to constructing a new transmission line from Kajaki to Kandahar when the security situation becomes permissive.

Afghanistan: Drugs

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Government has spent on counter-narcotics work in Afghanistan in each year since 2001. [297945]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Before 2004, the UK did not have a dedicated counter-narcotics (CN) programme in Afghanistan; projects targeting the drugs trade were funded from other programmes.

In 2005, the Afghan drugs interdepartmental unit was created to manage the UK's increasing counter-narcotics effort. Since then, UK expenditure on the CN programme in Afghanistan has been as follows:

	£ million
2005-06	46.8
2006-07	45.8
2007-08	43.8
2008-09	49.2
2009-10	[1]36.7

[1] Forecast figure.

The majority of this funding is drawn from the FCO's Strategic Programme Fund.

CN is a crucial component of our counter-insurgency effort. Our CN programme includes support for the interdiction and prosecution of major drug traffickers and the provision of alternative livelihoods for farmers, including support to Governor Mangal's Helmand Counter-Narcotics campaign. There have been some successes. In September, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) confirmed a 22 per cent. decrease in opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan in 2008—including a 33 per cent. reduction in Helmand. This builds on last year's success, when UNODC recorded a 19 per cent. fall in cultivation. Growing Afghan law enforcement capacity is increasingly having an impact on corruption and on the insurgency, with steady increases in the number of significant drug traffickers convicted and the amount of drugs seized.

Anti-Semitism: Eastern Europe

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received in 2009 on levels of anti-Semitism in *(a)* Ukraine, *(b)* Latvia and *(c)* Estonia; and if he will make a statement. [298224]

Chris Bryant: We are aware of a number of localised anti-Semitic incidents in Ukraine, including desecration of cemeteries, synagogues, private properties and Holocaust memorials, which have been reported in the local media this year. We take a serious view of these dreadful incidents and continue to urge the Ukrainian authorities to tackle them in a determined way in accordance with Ukraine's international commitments. The British embassy in Kyiv remains in contact with local human rights organisations and senior representatives of Ukraine's Jewish community. The British ambassador met the Chief Rabbi of Ukraine in October 2009. We have not received reports of violent attacks on Jewish people, synagogues or property in Latvia or Estonia in 2009, but we keep a close eye on any anti-Semitic political developments.

British Council: Manpower

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 253W, on the British Council: manpower, how many temporary staff are employed by the British Council; and if he will make a statement. [298416]

Chris Bryant: On 9 September 2009 the British Council had 199 temporary workers in the UK. However it is unable to provide this information for its overseas office without incurring disproportionate cost.

Chevening Scholarships Programme

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Chevening scholarships were awarded to individuals from *(a)* Bangladesh, *(b)* Nepal, *(c)* India, *(d)* China and *(e)* Pakistan in each of the last 10 years. [298770]

Chris Bryant: The number of Chevening scholars from each country over the last 10 years is set out in the following table:

Chevening scholars

Number

	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Bangladesh	10	6	9	15	15	10	8	12	7	10
Nepal	5	10	8	6	10	3	4	4	3	2
India	125	135	130	133	121	130	80	77	51	33
China	186	177	171	230	311	277	216	163	172	111
Pakistan	50	51	51	57	62	52	39	41	38	26

Colombia: Political Prisoners

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received estimating the number of political prisoners held in Colombia. [297703]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 5 November 2009]:* There is a wide variety of reports from different sources with diverging estimates of alleged political prisoners in Colombia. We wholly condemn any government that targets or imprisons individuals for their political orientation.

We are aware of allegations that Colombian individuals are being imprisoned or charged with offences, as a result of their political views or activities. We have pointed out to the Colombian authorities that those charged with crimes should have their legal rights fully respected, including to a fair trial. We regularly make representations to the Colombian Government on human rights.

Colombia: Trade Unions

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of convictions secured in cases where trade unionists in Colombia have disappeared. [297706]

Chris Bryant: Many vulnerable groups, including trade unionists, face constant violence and intimidation in Colombia. Every murder, threat or forced disappearance of a trade unionist or human rights defender is one too many. We call on the Colombian Government to do everything they can to ensure that those in Colombia who fight to defend human rights are able to do their work safely and without fear, and that the perpetrators of crimes against them are pursued and held accountable for their actions.

The level of impunity in Colombia is of real concern which is why the UK has committed £250,000 to projects to help tackle this particular problem.

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with which countries his Department has liaised about the Know Before You Go campaign. [298413]

Chris Bryant: The Know Before You Go (KBYG) campaign is aimed at providing travel guidance to British nationals before they travel to their destinations. As such the KBYG campaign itself is targeted at UK audiences and does not directly involve other country participation within the UK. However, to ensure the KBYG messages are relevant, and to help in producing bespoke media campaigns to reach our key target audiences, we often require feedback from our overseas posts which may involve liaison with the host country. The Department could obtain this information from its UK Departments and 250 overseas posts only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much money his Department has spent on the Know Before You Go campaign in each year since its inception in 2001. [298414]

Chris Bryant: Spending on the Know Before You Go campaign since 2001 is as follows:

	£
2001-02	754,939.00
2002-03	616,447.00
2003-04	811,819.00
2004-05	683,900
2005-06	940,570
2006-07	924,000
2007-08	1,132,768
2008-09	1,494,126

The know Before You Go campaign is self-funded by a percentage of the revenue generated from passport sales. The Know Before You campaign (KBYG) is evaluated on a six monthly basis to ensure that targets are being met and that we are getting value for money. In 2008-09, the Know Before You Go campaign achieved a return on investment of 20:1 (against a target of 6:1). Through media campaigns in 2008-09, 64 per cent. of all UK adults were reached an average of 2.3 times a month.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 28 October 2009 to the hon. Member for Winchester, *Official Report*, column 381W, on departmental telephone services, how many call handlers are employed to operate his Department's travel advice telephone information line. [298625]

Chris Bryant: The call centre, operated by Teleperformance, utilises a rotational shift pattern. At any one time, at least six call handlers are available to answer calls relating to Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice. The shift pattern is under constant review, and is amended according to demand. In periods of high pressure, on-call staff are available to reinforce those already available

Diplomatic Service: Databases

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 334W, on the Locate system, if he will place in the Library a copy of the audit of the system undertaken in March 2009. [298415]

Chris Bryant: No. The audit was simply a process to collate feedback on Locate from our network of overseas posts and was for internal purposes only. It is not presented in a formal audit format.

Hezbollah

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the extent to which Hezbollah has rearmed in south Lebanon; and if he will make a statement. [296610]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Hezbollah have themselves claimed that they have rearmed in South Lebanon. However, there have not been any independently corroborated reports.

This remains a serious concern. We expect a further report from the United Nations on recent security incidents in southern Lebanon during their regular report on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701 on 10 November. We continue to call upon all parties to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1701 fully.

Honduras: Human Rights

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department takes to monitor the human rights situation in Honduras. [296813]

Chris Bryant: We are concerned about reports of human rights violations in the Honduras since the political crisis began in June—in particular the growing restrictions imposed on the Honduran population since President Zelaya's return to Tegucigalpa on 21 September 2009

We continue to monitor the situation through discussions with those EU Partners who have embassies in Tegucigalpa and with UK-based non-governmental organisations operating in Honduras. UK officials from our embassy in Guatemala City have visited Tegucigalpa periodically since the crisis began, most recently between 21 September and 2 October 2009. A Mission representing the Organisation of American States Inter-American Commission on Human Rights visited Honduras last month. We await the report of their visit.

We hope that the signing, by representatives of President Zelaya and the de facto government, of an accord on 30 October will lead to the establishment of a power sharing government, and a return to full democratic, constitutional order and respect for human rights in the country.

Israel: Foreign Relations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to develop UK relations with Israel during the last 12 months; what such steps he plans to take in the next six months; and if he will make a statement. [298347]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Israel is a close ally of the UK and we have regular productive exchanges at all levels, going far beyond relations between governments. Our political relations allow us to address openly issues both of common concern and where we disagree. Most recently, on 27 October, I met the Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon. We will continue to foster this relationship and use it to further the interests of both countries and the wider region.

Kosovo: Elections

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* funding and *(b)* personnel the Government have provided to support the monitoring of the municipal elections in Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [297623]

Chris Bryant: The UK will contribute two short-term observers to the European Network of Election Monitoring Officials (ENEMO) Observation Mission. Our British embassy in Pristina will also conduct its own monitoring on election day, consisting of an estimated 20 members of staff (UK-based and locally engaged staff, including volunteers from other British embassies in the region). We are currently in discussions with the International Civilian Office in Kosovo to ensure that we co-ordinate our activity with that planned by other organisations and embassies.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of allegations of vandalism by Palestinians of *(a)* synagogues and *(b)* other structures in settlements in Gaza evacuated by the government of Israel in 2005; whether he has made representations to the governments of Arab countries on this matter since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [R] [298349]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have not recently received specific reports of such allegations of vandalism by Palestinians in Gaza.

Pakistan: Religious Freedom

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what monitoring his Department has undertaken of *(a)* compliance with international human rights standards and *(b)* instances of religious persecution in Pakistan. [297216]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are encouraging human rights reform through our regular dialogue with the Government of Pakistan, both bilaterally and through the European Union. It is a vital part of our commitment to support the Government of Pakistan in building a prosperous and stable society based on parliamentary democracy and the rule of law.

Along with our EU colleagues, we regularly raise our concerns with the Government of Pakistan over the situation of human rights and religious minorities. The most recent EU demarche called upon the government of Pakistan to promote religious tolerance, to protect freedom of expression and to reform discriminatory legislation such as the blasphemy laws.

Syria

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether he has made an assessment of the conditions in which Kamal al-Labwani is being detained in Syria; and if he will make a statement; [296471]

(2) whether he has received reports on the disappearance of human rights lawyer Haythem al-Maleh in Syria on 17 October 2009; and if he will make a statement; [296472]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of Syria's record on human rights, with particular reference to *(a)* civil and *(b)* political rights; and if he will make a statement; [296473]

(4) what recent reports he has received on *(a)* numbers of people detained by the Syrian government and *(b)* compliance by the Syrian government with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in respect of such people; [296474]

(5) what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the EU-Syria Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement in relation to Syria's human rights record; and if he will make a statement; [296475]

(6) by what mechanisms the EU-Syria Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement may be suspended in circumstances in which human rights violations are identified. [296476]

David Miliband: Syria's human rights record is a cause for concern. In the past year we have seen a worrying deterioration. Critics of the Government, including those who call for peaceful democratic reform, and some individuals who have posted dissenting comments on internet blogs, have been imprisoned. Disappearances, travel bans and arbitrary detention are increasingly common. There are reports of torture during interrogation and deaths in police custody. We do not know how many people are in detention but we continue to press Syria to abide by its international obligations on human rights.

I share the hon. Member's concern about the continued imprisonment of Dr. Labwani. He is currently held in Adra prison in Damascus in the same conditions as other prisoners, which are poor and involve sharing a cell. Dr. al-Labwani also suffers from serious medical condition which, given his medical expertise, he is reportedly treating himself having managed to obtain the necessary medication.

I am also concerned at the recent arrest of lawyer Haythem al-Maleh and, as we made clear in a Foreign and Commonwealth Office press statement on 19 October 2009, we call on the Syrian Government to release him.

I have raised my concerns with the Syrian Foreign Minister. Our embassy in Damascus, working with other EU missions, continues to press the Syrians to improve conditions in general as well as raising the cases of Dr. al-Labwani, Mr. al-Maleh and others of concern.

When the EU-Syria Association Agreement is in force, we will ensure that we use the dialogue established to press for action. Respect for human rights is an essential element of the agreement. The agreement provides that where a party considers that the other party is in breach of it obligations under the agreement it may take appropriate measures which could include suspension or termination of the Association Agreement.

Turks and Caicos Islands

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for how many advisers to the Turks and Caicos Islands his Department provides funding; what the cost to the public purse is of the annual salaries of such advisers; and if he will make a statement. [298641]

Chris Bryant: The number of UK funded advisers in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) is not constant. At present, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is funding four advisers to provide advice in TCI solely for that Territory. One is on loan from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The others visit TCI for short periods, and are not therefore paid an annual salary. The FCO also funds advisers to provide advice to the UK's Caribbean Overseas Territories and Bermuda, who visit TCI regularly but are based elsewhere in the region or in the UK.

USA: Terrorism

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department has received from the US administration in respect of the coroner's reports on the British citizens killed in the 11 September 2001 attacks in the United States; and whether he has received any representations from the families of British victims of the attacks in respect of the circumstances that caused their death. [298360]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The US coroner/authorities were unable to perform autopsies as in the majority of the cases very little or none of the victim's remains were recovered. Where identifiable remains were recovered, the cause of death was recorded on the death certificate as blunt trauma. If no remains were found, the cause of death was recorded as physical injuries (body not found). If remains were found at a later date, the cause of death would be amended to blunt trauma.

We have not received any representations from the families of British victims about the circumstances that caused their death.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprentices did not obtain work-based placements during the academic year 2008-09. [295999]

Kevin Brennan: Work experience is an important aspect of all apprenticeships. The Government do not collect data at a national level about apprentices who have not been successful in gaining a work placement.

Broadband

Tim Farron: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural households that do not have access to broadband. [293203]

Mr. Timms: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Business: South West

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in each location in the South West have received assistance from the South West Regional Development Agency's small business loan fund; and how much on average each such business received. [297858]

Ms Rosie Winterton: South West RDA facilitated the formation of the South West Loans Fund which is funded jointly by South West RDA and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) monies. In the first six months of operation, nine businesses have received assistance (three in Cornwall; two in Devon; two in Somerset; one in Wiltshire and one in Bristol). The average level of grant provided is £107,089. A further five offers of finance are in place with an average value of £84,000.

The fund provides loans to growth or growth potential businesses in the South West which have viable business proposals but who are unable to secure all the finance they need from traditional commercial finance sources.

Construction: Government Assistance

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what financial support the Government have offered to the construction industry during the current economic downturn; and if he will make a statement; [298404]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of the construction industry to the economy; and if he will make a statement; [298405]

(3) what steps the Government are taking to support the construction industry; and if he will make a statement. [298406]

Ian Lucas: The Government recognise the importance of the Construction Industry to the economy. In 2007 the construction industry, including contracting, products and services, accounted for 9 per cent. of GVA. Construction contracting by itself contributed 6 per cent. of GVA. These figures are based on the Annual Business inquiry published by ONS in June 2009, which are the latest data source the Department has at hand. The public sector is especially important to the construction industry. Some 30 per cent. of all construction work is procured by the public sector, rising to 40 per cent. if PFI projects are included.

In order to help preserve jobs and skills, at the time of the 2008 pre-Budget report the Government announced that it was bringing forward £3 billion of capital expenditure from financial year 2010-11 to financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10, to be spent on motorways, schools, GPs' surgeries, flood defences and improving the energy efficiency of the existing housing stock.

In addition, in the Budget the Chancellor announced a £600 million cash injection for the housing market to help kick-start stalled projects and to build more energy efficient homes, including £50 million to modernise armed forces' accommodation.

The Construction Industry like other sectors has benefited from the Government's recapitalisation of the banks and the restoration of stability to the financial sector. The UK is the first country in the world to have negotiated legally binding lending commitments with banks receiving state support, and both RBS and the Lloyd's Banking Group have committed to additional net lending over the next 12 months.

The Construction Industry is dominated by Small and Medium Sized Enterprises. Like other sectors of the economy, the industry has benefited from the Government's "Real Help for Business Now" initiative, including:

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme: enabling banks to lend an extra £1.3 billion to small and medium-sized businesses with viable business plans that can not access normal commercial lending;

Extra lending capacity: made available through the European Investment Bank;

The Working Capital Scheme: provides guarantees to banks for existing business lending, so freeing up more capital for new loans;

Up to six months' Trade Credit Insurance Top-Up, backed by the Government and available for businesses where cover has been reduced due to the recession.

The Government would shortly appoint a Chief Construction Adviser to lead the low carbon review of the Construction Industry to ensure the industry is "fit for purpose" for delivering a low carbon future. The Chief Construction Adviser will also chair a new Construction Category Board, which will build on the work of the existing Public Sector Construction Clients Forum, to oversee the implementation and further the development of best value in Government construction procurement.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with which organisations his Department and its predecessors have had exclusivity agreements relating to information technology *(a)* hardware and *(b)* software in each of the last five years. [298365]

Mr. Timms: While the Department's main IT infrastructure services are provided through agreements with Fujitsu Services, covering desktop services, web infrastructure services, and document management, these agreements are not exclusive. The Department also has in place alternative framework contracts with a number of other IT suppliers (following competitive tendering) and also has access to a number of OGC framework contracts should specific and specialised services be required.

Departmental Internet

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 116W, on departmental internet, what Twitter accounts are maintained by his Department; and what estimate he has made of the cost of maintaining and updating each such account in 2009-10. [296856]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills manages three Twitter accounts: @bisgovuk; @digitalbritain; and @BIS_Science

The estimated cost of staff time in maintaining and updating all three accounts is £3,175 a year. The task is the shared responsibility of the Department's Digital Communications team as part of their overall range of duties and the total effort is estimated as half an hour per day. No staff are assigned to Twitter work specifically.

Departmental Responsibilities

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 650W, on ministerial responsibility, how many hours per week and what proportion of his working time the Minister for Digital Britain spent discharging his ministerial duties as Minister for Digital Britain. [296857]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 650W.

East of England Development Agency: Consultants

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer of 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 574W, on the East of England Development Agency: Fishburn Hedges, how much the East of England Development Agency has paid to external public relations, public affairs and marketing agencies in each year since its establishment; to which firms such payments were made; for what services each such payment was made; and what the value was of each such payment. [289780]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table gives a full breakdown of payments to external public relations, marketing and public affairs agencies made since 2002.[1]

EEDA has an in-house team that manage the corporate communications of EEDA. However, we do use agencies to provide support across EEDA's wide range of activities and services on a project basis. This is to help publicise EEDA's full range of support services to businesses in the region, support major campaigns to promote services and products and assist in production of key publications including the Regional Economic Strategy (RES). The majority of the agencies used provide marketing support.

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[1] 2002 is the earliest we are able to provide a fall breakdown from. Please note, these figures have been extracted from financial records and are excluding VAT.

Supplier name	*2002/03 (£)*	*2003/04 (£)*	*2004/05 (£)*	*2005/06 (£)*	*2006/07 (£)*	*2007/08 (£)*	*2008/09 (£)*	*Service*
Band & Brown (formerly Barker Johnson Peal)	17,400	7,050	39,235	26,164	734	—	—	Marketing support for EEDA's business support campaigns and regional promotion.
Black Orchid Marketing Ltd.	—	—	—	—	15,265	—	—	Marketing support for major business event.
Camargue	—	—	12,604	43,849	—	—	—	Marketing support for business support campaign
Communications Management	—	—	—	—	87,574	200,583	323,828	Marketing support for development of major business campaigns including TakeITon - an IT support campaign, Business finance products including Grants for Research and Development and other business support products
Different Advertising Ltd.	196,525	88,615	—	—	—	—	—	Marketing support for regional advertising campaign
Direct Approach Design & Marke	10,545	—	—	280	—	—	—	Marketing support for EEDA publications including annual reports
Fishburn Hedges	—	—	30,107	110,511	224,818	61,153	66,444	Public affairs and project specific marketing support including major business support event
Flag Communication Ltd.	—	—	—	—	8,285	10,765		Marketing and writing support for EEDA publications
IF Communications	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,000	Marketing support for business support campaign
John Turner Direct Marketing	—	70	133	14,631	16,832	25,943	24,320	Marketing support for mailings to businesses and public partners
Lillian May Design	—	—	—	27,237	43,485	4,570		Marketing support for EEDA publications
Linstock Communications Ltd.	—	—	—	47,822	105,614	156,965	60,224	Marketing support for EEDA's spatial economy programme including transport and regional cities east
Markettiers 4DC	—	—	—	—	—	9,075	—	Marketing support for Running the Gauntlet business campaign
Media Communications	—	—	—	—	10,609	6,294	9,501	Marketing support for EEDA publications, business support and carbon cutting campaign
Media Matters	23,288	100	—	—	—	—	—	Marketing support

Supplier name	*2002/03 (£)*	*2003/04 (£)*	*2004/05 (£)*	*2005/06 (£)*	*2006/07 (£)*	*2007/08 (£)*	*2008/09 (£)*	*Service*
Milk no Sugar	—	2,750	—	—	—	—	—	Regional marketing support
Mission 21	—	30,228	—	—	—	—	—	PR support for regional ideas campaign
Nexus	—	—	37,599	—	—	—	—	Marketing support
Omobono Ltd.	288,201	301,849	339,778	188,000	—	903	1,242	Marketing support for various business support campaigns, including Demand Broadband
Poulsen Selleck	—	—	—	—	—	6,795	108,433	Marketing support for production of RES, Insight East intelligence centre and Business Map campaign to help simplify business support
Project PR	—	32,186	1,900	—	—	—	—	PR and media relations support
Proof Communications	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,147	Writing support for EEDA website
Red Hat Creative Limited	—	—	—	—	20,738	44,564	20,570	Writing support for business campaigns
Sherry Design Limited	—	—	—	8,094	6,041	—	—	Marketing support for Regional Cities East
Shorthose Russell	—	—	—	72,402	49,679	41,094	—	Marketing support for promotion of EU funding opportunities
Smith UK Ltd.	—	—	—	—	—	24,479	9,498	Marketing support for production of the RES and annual report
Taylor-made Communications	—	—	—	—	20,000	40,150	4,800	Writing support
WAR	—	—	11,500	—	—	—	—	Marketing support for international business services
Total	535,958	462,848	472,124	555,979	535,958	780,475	642,007	
Grand total				3,985,349.66				

Fireworks

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what legislation regulates the sale of fireworks over the internet; and if he will make a statement. [298462]

Kevin Brennan: The same legislation applies to internet sales as applies to retail sales. Companies selling fireworks over the internet either deliver to a pick-up point, or to the buyer by special carrier; they are not allowed to deliver through the Royal Mail.

Further Education: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much of the adult further education budget managed by the Learning and Skills Council in 2009-10 is planned to be allocated to *(a)* adult Level 2 and adult first Level 2 courses, *(b)* adult first Level 2 and adult first Level 3 courses, *(c)* adult Level 2 and adult first Level 2 courses for 19 to 24 year olds and *(d)* adult Level 3 and adult first Level 3 courses for 19 to 24 year olds. [296876]

Kevin Brennan: The Learning and Skills Council Grant Letter 2009-10 sent in November 2008 sets out planned expenditure across our funding priorities based on estimated volumes of activity.

A copy of this letter is available publicly at the following address:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/news_and_speeches/press_releases/~/media/publications/L/LSC_GRANT_LETTER_FINAL_18_NOV

Estimated spend for all adults in 2009-10, through the Adult Learner Responsive (ALR) budget is £259 million for full level 2 qualifications and £379 million for full level 3 qualifications.

Within the ALR budget we provide full funding for adults to gain their first full level 2 and full level 3 (for those aged 19 to 25 years) qualification so that they do not have to pay course fees.

The actual amount spent at each level and on particular age groups will depend on learner and throughout the year.

Higher Education

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what estimate he has made of *(a)* the greatest, *(b)* the lowest and *(c)* the average number of hours spent by an undergraduate in contact with teaching staff at institutions of tertiary education in each year since 1997; [298417]

(2) how many hours of contact time with education staff his Department uses to define full-time study in institutions of tertiary education; [298418]

(3) what criteria institutions of tertiary education use to define student-faculty contact time. [298419]

Mr. Lammy: Full-time higher education is not defined in terms of hours of contact time between students and academic staff and no information is held centrally on contact hours for higher education courses.

It is for higher education institutions (HEIs) as autonomous organisations to define the amount of student contact time with teaching staff, including lectures, group or individual tuition, online or distance learning; and other planned discussion time about academic work.

Contact time will also vary depending on the subject, course content and nature of delivery.

As we set out in the HE Framework, "Higher Ambitions," published on 3 November, the Government expect HEIs to make transparent information available for students, so they have a better understanding of what to expect before they choose a course. This information should include the number and nature of the contact hours they should have for each course, the amount of personal learning which will be required, and the academic support which will be available from staff.

Higher Education: Historic Buildings

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which universities received Higher Education Funding Council for England funds to support old and historic buildings as a fixed targeted allocation in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [298723]

Mr. Lammy: The institutions eligible for this funding stream in 2009/10 are:

Anglia Ruskin University
Aston University
Bath Spa University
University of Bedfordshire
Birkbeck College
University of Birmingham
Birmingham City University
Bishop Grosseteste University College, Lincoln
University of Bolton
University of Bradford
University of Brighton
University of Bristol
Brunel University
Buckinghamshire New University
University of Cambridge
Institute of Cancer Research
Canterbury Christ Church University
University of Central Lancashire
Central School of Speech and Drama
University of Chester
University of Chichester
City University, London
University of Cumbria
De Montfort University
University of Derby
University of Durham
University of Salford
University of Sheffield
Sheffield Hallam University
University of Southampton
Southampton Solent University
University of Sunderland
University of Surrey
University of Teesside
Thames Valley University
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
University College London
University of Warwick
University of West of England, Bristol
University of Westminster
University of Winchester
University of Wolverhampton
Writtle College
University of York
York St. John University.

Higher Education: Intellectual Property

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent research his Department has undertaken into assistance given to universities in exploiting intellectual property. [297859]

Mr. Lammy: In the year since my hon. Friend last asked me this question, I am pleased to say that the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and its predecessor have published Professor Paul Wellings' report on Intellectual Property and Research Benefits, and HEFCE have released an independent Evaluation of the Effectiveness and Role of Third Stream Funding. A report on Metrics for the Evaluation of Knowledge Transfer Activities at Universities, funded by HEFCE and the Research Councils, has been published by Library House. The Higher Education Business Community Interaction Survey for 2007-08 was released in July 2009 showing a continued increase in income from IP. This has been supported in England by the Higher Education Innovation Fund.

Higher Education: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people aged *(a)* 21 years and under and *(b)* over 21 years old in each socio-economic group resident in (i) Peterborough constituency and (ii) Peterborough City Council area attended university in each of the last five years. [297799]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency is shown in tables 1 and 2.

The figures are for full-time undergraduate entrants as socio-economic class information is not available for part-time higher education students. Figures are provided for entrants aged under 21, and 21 and over, as socio-economic class data has a different basis for these two distinct age groups. Socio-economic class is based on occupation information: those aged under 21 provide their parent's occupation, and those aged 21 and over provide their own occupation.

Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency in January 2010.

Table 1: Full-time undergraduate entrants from Peterborough parliamentary constituency[1], by age and socio-economic classification[2], UK higher education institutions[3], academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08

Socio-economic classification	*2003/04*		*2004/05*		*2005/06*		*2006/07*		*2007/08*	
	<21	*21+*	*<21*	*21+*	*<21*	*21+*	*<21*	*21+*	*<21*	*21+*
Higher managerial and professional occupations	65	5	60	5	50	0	50	5	50	5
Lower managerial and professional occupations	75	5	65	5	95	10	80	5	85	5
Intermediate occupations	40	10	40	10	55	5	50	5	40	10
Small employers and own account workers	15	0	25	0	20	0	20	0	35	5
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	25	0	10	0	10	0	15	0	20	0
Semi-routine occupations	40	5	40	10	55	5	50	5	30	10
Routine occupations	25	0	20	5	15	0	25	0	15	5
Total	280	25	255	35	295	30	285	25	270	45
Missing[4]	80	70	85	65	75	60	85	45	105	65

[1] The table does not include entrants where the constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid information.

[2] This field collects the socio-economic classification of students participating in HE if 21 or over at the start of their course or parental classification if under 21.

[3] Figures exclude the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

[4] Covers students whose socio-economic classification was missing, not classified or 'Never worked and long-term unemployed'.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded up or down to the nearest five, therefore components may not sum to totals.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency.

Table 2: Full-time undergraduate entrants from Peterborough local authority[1], by age and socio-economic classification[2], UK higher education institutions[3], academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08

Socio-economic classification	*2003/04*		*2004/05*		*2005/06*		*2006/07*		*2007/08*	
	<21	*21+*	*<21*	*21+*	*<21*	*21+*	*<21*	*21+*	*<21*	*21+*
Higher managerial and professional occupations	125	10	100	5	110	0	100	5	115	5
Lower managerial and professional occupations	130	10	120	10	165	15	140	10	155	10
Intermediate occupations	70	10	60	15	85	15	65	10	80	20
Small employers and own account workers	30	0	35	0	30	0	35	0	45	5
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	30	0	20	5	20	0	30	5	30	5
Semi-routine occupations	55	10	65	10	75	20	65	15	50	20
Routine occupations	30	0	20	5	20	5	30	5	20	5
Total	465	45	415	55	505	55	470	45	500	70
Missing[4]	120	120	125	115	120	105	135	90	180	120

[1] The table does not include entrants where the constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid information.

[2] This field collects the socio-economic classification of students participating in HE if 21 or over at the start of their course or parental classification if under 21.

[3] Figures exclude the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

[4] Covers students whose socio-economic classification was missing, not classified or 'Never worked and long-term unemployed'.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded up or down to the nearest five, therefore components may not sum to totals.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency.

Learning and Skills Council for England: Correspondence

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1523W, on further education: Hampshire, if he will ensure that copies of letters from the Learning and Skills Council responding to Parliamentary Questions are always sent to the *Official Report* for publication. [298685]

Kevin Brennan: I can confirm that letters from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) responding to parliamentary questions should always be placed promptly in the House of Commons Library. Due to an administrative error the answer to which the hon. Member refers was placed in the House of Commons Library on 3 November 2009. I have asked the LSC to review its procedures to prevent a recurrence.

Post Offices: Public Consultation

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the timetable of the new proposed consultation on the future provision of services by the Post Office will be. [298560]

Mr. McFadden: We are aiming to launch this consultation in late November/early December. This will be a full 12-week consultation.

Research: Energy

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding from the public purse has been allocated to research into fusion energy in each of the last five years; and how much funding he plans to allocate for such purposes in each of the next five years. [298000]

Mr. Lammy: The Government provide support for nuclear fusion research in the UK through the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC). The EPSRC funding for fusion research over the last five years was:

	£ million
2004/05	19.4

	£ million
2005/06	17.3
2006/07	22.3
2007/08	21.7
2008/09	32.6

Funding in 2009/10 is expected to total about £25 million. Funding for subsequent years will depend on the outcome of spending reviews and the quality of science case proposals.

Euratom also fund fusion research in the UK through the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. The UK also contributes indirectly to the Euratom European fusion research programme through its payments to the EU budget.

Royal Mail: Pay

Colin Burgon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria were applied to the award of a bonus to the Chief Executive of Royal Mail in 2008. [298312]

Mr. McFadden: The criteria for the bonus award to the chief executive of Royal Mail in 2008/09 were profit and service quality.

Colin Burgon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average bonus paid to Royal Mail staff at the lowest grade was in 2008. [298313]

Mr. McFadden: Under Royal Mail's Colleague Share scheme, each Royal Mail staff member received a stakeholder dividend payment of £400 in 2008/09. The total cost of payments under the scheme was £70 million.

Royal Mail staff were also eligible to receive local productivity bonuses. My Department does not hold this information and I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to reply to you direct. A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Students: Grants

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students have received provisional payments in advance of full student support payments from Student Finance England in *(a)* the 2009/10 academic year and *(b)* each of the five previous years. [294702]

Mr. Lammy: The Student Loans Company has released figures to show the levels of processing and payment of Student Support in England for the 2009/10 academic year. The information is available on the Student Loans Company website and includes information on "applications approved with interim assessment".

The figures for new and returning students in this category stand at 35,000 as at 25 October 2009.

Some changes to the way applications are processed have been introduced for the 2009/10 application processing cycle which means there are no comparable data for the previous five years.

Students: Loans

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people in each age group resident in *(a)* each local authority area in the North West and *(b)* England had not repaid their student loan at the latest date for which figures are available. [296433]

Mr. Lammy: Borrowers become liable to repay their loans in the April after they leave their course (the statutory repayment due date, SRDD). After that date those with earnings of over £15,000 will repay, usually by deductions from salary. Those liable to repay who have not yet made a repayment will include borrowers whose earnings are below the repayment threshold, have gone on to further study or are doing voluntary work.

The tables cover income contingent loan borrowers past SRDD with a known repayment or non-repayment position by whether or not they have made a repayment.

Tables containing the requested information have been placed in the Library.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been deducted in student loan repayments from the salaries of individuals in each income group resident in *(a)* each local authority area in the North West and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [296434]

Mr. Lammy: Deductions from salaries are made when the borrower's income is above £15,000 per year, £1,250 per month or £288 per week. A borrower who starts work late in the tax year on an annual salary above £15,000 will have deductions made but may have earnings during the tax year of less than £15,000.

Tables containing the requested information have been placed in the Library.

Train to Gain Programme

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much of the Train to Gain budget managed by the Learning and Skills Council in 2009-10 is planned to be allocated to *(a)* adult Level 2 and adult first Level 2 courses, *(b)* adult first Level 2 and adult first Level 3 courses, *(c)* adult Level 2 and adult first Level 2 courses for 19 to 24 year olds and *(d)* adult Level 3 and adult first Level 3 courses for 19 to 24 year olds. [296877]

Kevin Brennan: The Grant Letter to the Learning and Skills Council for 2009-10 sent in November 2008 sets out planned expenditure across our funding priorities based on estimated volumes of activity.

A copy of this letter is available publicly at the following address:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/news_and_speeches/press_releases/~/media/publications/L/LSC_GRANT_LETTER_FINAL_19-NOV

Estimated spend for all adults in 2009-10 through Train to Gain is £626 million on full level 2 and £161 million on full level 3 qualifications. Funding through Train to Gain is prioritised on supporting adults in employment to gain basic literacy and numeracy skills, full level 2 and full level 3 qualifications. For 2009-10 in response to the economic downturn we have provided increased flexibilities for small and medium sized enterprises to support retraining through access to funding for units and part qualifications in areas described as business critical by Sector Skills Councils.

The actual amount spent at each level and on particular age groups will depend on learner and employer demand throughout the year.

Vocational Training: Finance

David Taylor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of guidance issued by the Learning and Skills Council to participants in the Train to Gain scheme enquiring about their use of funds for the 2009-10 contract; and if he will make a statement. [291348]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is responsible for issuing national funding guidance to providers for each academic year, setting out the rules and principles for funding through Train to Gain. Guidance for 2009/10 was issued on 23 January, and is regularly updated. The latest version is available on the LSC website.

Geoff Russell, the chief executive of the LSC, sent letters to all Train to Gain—contracted providers on 19 June, informing them of their funding and contract arrangements for the 2009/10 academic year. Since then, regional and local LSC partnership teams have been working closely with individual providers to finalise their contract documentation, including maximum contract values.

In addition, the LSC publishes regular guidance to employers and learners who access Train to Gain, including information on new flexibilities, funding that may be available and where to go for further information. This guidance is also available on the LSC website.

Work Experience

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his Department's definition is of a skilled internship; how many skilled internships his Department plans to create by *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2011, *(c)* 2012, *(d)* 2013, *(e)* 2014 and *(f)* 2015; how long each skilled internship will last; and whether people on a skilled internship will be paid. [298942]

Mr. Lammy: By March 2010, 20,000 graduate internships overall will have been created in the private, public and third sectors to help young people develop the skills they need to improve their employability. There will be different models for these internships. Of these, up to 10,000 will be delivered in collaboration with the Federation of Small Businesses as part of Backing Young Britain. These will last for 13 weeks and will be paid. There are no targets for the following years.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 10 November 2009

OLYMPICS

Departmental Postal Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister for the Olympics with which providers her Office held contracts to provide postal services *(a)* in 2007, *(b)* in 2008, *(c)* between 1 January and 1 July 2009 and *(d)* after 1 July 2009. [298768]

Tessa Jowell: My Office has been part of the Cabinet Office since July 2007. I therefore refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 27 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 252W.

Olympic Games 2012: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) has made of the economic effects of the London 2012 Olympics on *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Southend, West constituency since May 2009; what recent discussions she has had with the GOE on this issue; and if she will make a statement. [296562]

Tessa Jowell: Further to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1261W, there has been no further assessment of the economic benefits of London 2012 on Essex and Southend, West.

I am however delighted that Hadleigh Farm has been chosen to host the Olympic mountain biking competition in 2012.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions the Government Olympic Executive has had with Southend Borough Council since May 2009 on its *(a)* participation in and *(b)* legacy from the London 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [296564]

Tessa Jowell: Further to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1119W, I have had no discussion with Southend borough council on participation in, and legacy resulting from, London 2012.

I am however delighted that Hadleigh Farm has been chosen to host the Olympic mountain biking competition in 2012.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Oils

David Taylor: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much used cooking oil was produced by the Refreshment Department in each year since 2001; and what percentage was recycled in each year. [298369]

Nick Harvey: All used cooking oil produced by the House of Commons is recycled as biofuels. We do not have reliable figures to show the amounts produced since 2001.

WALES

Christmas

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department has spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in the last 12 months. [299260]

Mr. Hain: In the last 12 months my Department spent £385 on Christmas cards and £1,054 on receptions. We did not purchase any Christmas decorations.

Departmental Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the *(a)* energy rating and *(b)* energy band of each building occupied by his Department was in each of the last five years. [299172]

Mr. Hain: For the Wales Office's main building in London, the available information is given in the following table.

	(a) energy performance rating	*(b) energy band*
2008	73	C
2009	67	C

My Department also leases serviced office space in a modern building in Cardiff. Assessments of the building's energy rating are not undertaken by the landlord.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff in his Department were employed on the management of freedom of information requests submitted to his Department in each year since 2005; and how much his Department spent on the management of such requests in each such year. [299131]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office has a correspondence unit whose primary function is to co-ordinate the correspondence the Department receives. A small part of their role is also to manage Freedom of Information requests. From 2005 until 2008, the Unit consisted of three members of staff. Since 2008, the unit has been staffed by two members.

As much of the work of the unit covers other responsibilities, the information requested on the cost of managing requests can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

An assessment of the cost of freedom of information within Government can be found in Frontier Economics 2006 report "Independent Review of the Freedom of Information Act". A copy of this report is available in the House of Commons Library.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department on procurement under tender because the tender process had been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last 12 months. [299359]

Mr. Hain: No, my Department has not undertaken any tender processes.

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department and its predecessor travelled by (i) car, (ii) rail and (iii) air on Government business in each year since 1997. [298549]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office does not have records in the detail requested going back to its inception in 1999. The records that we do have are in the following table. All other records could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The Wales Office is co-located in Cardiff and London, resulting in the majority of rail journeys undertaken being between Cardiff and London.

	Mileage	
	Officials	*Ministers*
Car		
2008-09	20,739	28,006
Air		
2004-05	37,768	12,270
2005-06	0	0
2006-07	24,930	676
2007-08	3987	1611
2008-09	12,887	6,575

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Church Commissioners: Land

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1442W, on Church Commissioners: land, what criteria govern decisions by the Church Commissioners to transfer land from the rural let land portfolio to the rural strategic land portfolio. [298426]

Sir Stuart Bell: Land with significant development potential is transferred into the strategic land portfolio.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1442W, on Church Commissioners: land, what the location is of each parcel of land transferred from the rural let land portfolio in each of the last five years. [298427]

Sir Stuart Bell: The strategic land portfolio consists of sites throughout England in the counties of: Bedfordshire (three sites), Cambridgeshire (eight sites), Cheshire (four sites), Cumbria (one site), Devon (one site), Durham (two sites), Hampshire (one site), Herefordshire one site), Kent (five sites), Lincolnshire (three sites), Norfolk (one site), North Yorkshire (one site), Nottinghamshire one site), Tyne and Wear (seven sites), and West Sussex one site).

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1441-42W, on Church Commissioners: land, which sites are included in the Church Commissioners' strategic land portfolio. [298428]

Sir Stuart Bell: The strategic land portfolio includes land at various stages in the planning process. Some has scope for allocation in a development plan; some is already allocated for development; some has planning permission; and some is being developed. The location of the various sites is set out in my previous answer (question no. 298427).

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners pursuant to the answer of 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 997W, on departmental land, how many files the Church Commissioners store *(a)* on-site and *(b)* off-site; and which firm provides the off-site ordering services to the Church Commissioners. [298429]

Sir Stuart Bell: My estimate is that the Church Commissioners' Property Investments Department holds approximately 2,400 files at the Commissioners' Westminster office and approximately 70,000 at the Church of England Record Centre in south London. They do not use a firm to transport files between these sites as this is carried out by the Church's own staff.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what legal advisers the Church Commissioners retain in respect of the sale and development of land. [298432]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commissioners are advised by their own official solicitor as well as a number of external legal firms including Lovells, Cripps Harries Hall, Bond Pearce, Ashurts and Farrers.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how much the Church Commissioners spent on legal services relating to the sale of land in each of the last five years. [298433]

Sir Stuart Bell: We do not record as a separate sub-category expenditure on legal advice relating specifically to land sales although we are currently implementing a financial computing package that will enable this kind of detailed cost analysis to be undertaken in future.

We do publish in our annual report total external asset management costs which include the cost of various professional advisers, including legal advisers.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what the policy of the Church Commissioners is on the consultation of residents close to land developments proposed by the Church Commissioners. [298507]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commissioners take public consultation very seriously and welcome feedback, which plays an important part in achieving high quality schemes. We undertake the appropriate level of public consultation commensurate with the proposals in question and local circumstances.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how much the Church Commissioners have spent on legal services in relation to the proposed development of land to the west of Chalcraft Lane in Bognor Regis. [298508]

Sir Stuart Bell: Information regarding the cost of taking an individual site through the planning process is commercially sensitive. In reference to my earlier answer (question no. 298433), it is intended that such information will be available for the portfolio as a whole in the future.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what consultation the Church Commissioners carried out with residents of Bognor Regis prior to submitting a planning application for the proposed development of land to the west of Chalcraft Lane in Bognor Regis. [298509]

Sir Stuart Bell: Before the planning application was submitted the Commissioners carried out two public exhibitions close to the site and in Bognor as well as two workshops at Jubilee Hall for community representatives. Thousands of local residents were personally invited to the exhibitions, which were also advertised in the press.

The public has also been consulted on major development north of Chalcraft Lane as part of the local Council's work on its core strategy.

The public also had the opportunity to comment on the regional spatial strategy which includes an urban extension proposal at Bognor.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what representations the Church Commissioners have received on the proposed development of land to the west of Chalcraft Lane in Bognor Regis; and if he will make a statement. [298425]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commissioners have received a number of representations from local groups and individuals in the form of letters, telephone calls and engagement at public events. In addition we have answered a number of Questions from, and had meetings with, the hon. Gentleman.

By way of a statement, sites such as the proposed Eco Quarter at Bognor Regis are promoted through the planning system, usually in response to a district planning authority needing to find land for housing or other uses that would provide regeneration and new jobs. Therefore the Commissioners work very closely with local councils to help them provide the development needed to sustain local communities.

By promoting strategic developments that involve housing, we try to help local authorities provide new homes as part of sustainable new communities in their area. All such proposals have to be carefully planned, providing a mix of social and open market housing, as well as comprehensive social infrastructure such as schools, shops, recreation and so on. The scheme proposed at Bognor Regis goes one step further, by putting forward a step change in urban design and sustainable living, offering the town a very high quality new community which will help Bognor grow and regenerate.

At any one time the Commissioners have about 40 strategic sites throughout England, all at various stages in the planning process, many of them in the Government's designated growth areas. The Church Commissioners have considerable experience in the planning and development of land for affordable and private housing and other uses, and always seek to work with local councils to bring forward schemes that all parties can be proud of.

Church Commissioners: Meetings

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the agendas and *(b)* the minutes of each meeting of the (i) Church Commissioners and (ii) Church Commissioners' Assets Committee in the last 12 months. [298476]

Sir Stuart Bell: No. These papers are confidential to the Church Commissioners.

Church of England: Finance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners pursuant to the answer of 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 996W, on Church of England: finance, for what reason whole-Church figures are not available for years after 2006; and when he expects these figures to be available. [298456]

Sir Stuart Bell: Collating financial information for the whole Church requires data from parishes, cathedrals, dioceses and the national Church institutions. Analysing regular annual data from thousands of legally independent entities is carried out through and in liaison with Church of England dioceses who use it for their own purposes.

This exercise consequently takes significant time but we endeavour to complete it within about 18 months of the annual parochial meetings that receive this information. I would hope that the whole-Church figures for 2007 would be available by the end of this year and the equivalent figures for 2008 by the end of next.

Church of England: Investment

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what the policy on planning, development and the environment is of the Ethical Investment Advisory Group of the Church of England. [298431]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Ethical Investment Advisory Group has not formulated a policy specifically on planning and development, but its advice that the Church's national investing bodies should have regard to sustainable environmental practice in the investments they make applies to all asset classes including land and property.

Written Answers: Government Responses

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners with reference to the answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 5W, how many questions for written answer by the hon. Member representing the Church Commissioners *(a)* were tabled in 2008 and *(b)* have been tabled in 2009 to date; and how many such questions were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [298430]

Sir Stuart Bell: As I said in my answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 5W, the Church Commissioners' record of questions does not distinguish between those for written and oral answer. However, I believe the total number of questions tabled in 2008 and in 2009 to date to be as follows:

2008—54 questions

2009 (to date)—98 questions

As far as I am aware, during this period I have only been unable to answer one question on grounds of disproportionate cost. This was the question from the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 40W. All other questions during this period have received substantive answers.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland Policing Board

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how much the *(a)* Northern Ireland Policing Board and *(b)* district policing partnerships cost to run in the latest year for which figures are available; [298178]

(2) how many people attended public meetings of *(a)* the Northern Ireland Policing Board and *(b)* district policing partnerships in the latest period for which figures are available. [298179]

Paul Goggins: These are operational matters for the Northern Ireland Policing Board, which is independent of Government. The hon. Member may wish to write to the Chief Executive of the Policing Board.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his latest estimate is of the level of knife crime in Northern Ireland. [298893]

Paul Goggins: Provisional police statistics report 226 relevant violent or sexual offences involving knives or sharp instruments in the first quarter of 2009-10 and the same in the second quarter.

The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) is working closely with the criminal justice agencies in an effort to reduce the carrying of knives. This includes a series of schools events across Northern Ireland in mid-November, highlighting through drama the message that "knives ruin lives".

Parades Commission for Northern Ireland

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff there are in the office of the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland; what information his Department holds on the religious background of its staff; and how much the offise spent on *(a)* administration and *(b)* current public relations in the latest period for which figures are available. [297413]

Paul Goggins: The Parades Commission is supported by a Secretariat made up of 11 staff comprising Northern Ireland Office (NIO) home civil servants and seconded Northern Ireland civil servants. In order to comply with their obligations under the Fair Employment and Treatment (Northern Ireland) Order 1998, the NIO holds details of the community background of the HCS staff while the Northern Ireland civil service holds similar details of the NICS staff.

The cost of the Secretariat was £364,664 and the Commission spent £61,404.14 on public relations and media in 2007-08.

Police

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the content was of *(a)* correspondence sent by and *(b)* other communications made by him to the First and Deputy First Ministers of the Northern Ireland Executive since 1 October 2009 on issues related to policing and justice in Northern Ireland; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such communication. [297604]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 12W.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Big Lottery Fund: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many page hits the Big Lottery Fund website has recorded in each year since its creation. [299213]

Mr. Simon: The information provided in the table has been supplied by the Big Lottery Fund. It provides figures for the number of hits recorded for the Big Lottery Fund website in each financial year since the inception of the Big Lottery Fund on 1 June 2004.

Financial year	*Hits*
June 2004-March 2005	679,086
April 2005-March 2006	2,130,308
April 2006-March 2007	2,700,095
April 2007-March 2008	4,889,147
April 2008-March 2009	4,615,104

Cultural Heritage: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many page hits have been recorded by the *(a)* English Heritage, *(b)* Heritage Lottery Fund and *(c)* National Heritage Memorial Fund website in each year since their creation. [298845]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 9 November 2009]*: English Heritage advises that the figures in respect of *(a)* are as follows:

Months/years	*Page views*
April 2001 to March 2002	7,691,666
April 2002 to March 2003	18,465,658
April 2003 to March 2004	22,958,083
April 2004 to March 2005	35,575,282
April 2005 to March 2006	29,771,290
July 2006 to March 2007[1]	12,167,643
April 2007 to March 2008	18,887,744
April 2008 to March 2009	21,331,305
April 2009 to October 2009[1]	16,260,538

[1] These are figures for incomplete years

The Heritage Lottery Fun advises that the figures in respect of *(b)* and *(c)* are as follows:

Months/years	*Page views*
April 2007 to March 2008	[1]1,545,104
April 2008 to March 2009	[2]1,707,313
April 2009 to date	[3]978,673

[1] Heritage Lottery Fund only

[2,3] Heritage Lottery Fund and National Heritage Memorial Fund combined

Departmental Air Travel

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many domestic flights within Great Britain officials from the Department made in 2008-09; and at what cost such flights were taken. [298237]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 9 November 2009]*: During 2008-09 the Department for Culture, Media and Sport made a total of 65 domestic flight bookings at a cost of £12,077.00.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department's information assurance procedures have been subject to an independent audit. [299371]

Mr. Simon: My Department carries out an independent external audit of its information assurance procedures at least annually.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many page hits have been recorded by his Department's website in each year since its creation. [298849]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 9 November 2009]*: We can provide statistics since 2003. The figures for total page hits 2003-2009 are as follows:

	Figures
2003	7,949,240
2004	12,666,401
2005	[1]13,900,000
2006	16,289,445
2007	26,825,559
2008	19,879,767
2009	[2]14,303,468

[1] Incomplete, no figures for February.

[2] January-August

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with which providers *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency had a contract to provide postal services in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, (iii) between 1 January 2009 and 1 July 2009 and (iv) since 1 July 2009. [299430]

Mr. Simon: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Since 2007 The Department has had a contract with Pitney Bowes Management Services for the provision of postal services.

(b) The Royal Parks do not have a contract for the provision of postal services.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1033W, on departmental rail travel, how many *(a)* journeys were paid for and *(b)* people travelled in each year; whether any nugatory expenditure was incurred in each year; and if he will make a statement. [298174]

Mr. Simon: The following information details the *(a)* number of journeys paid for and *(b)* number of people that travelled:

2008-09: *(a)* 470; *(b)* 227

2007-08: *(a)* 319; *(b)* 181

2006-07: *(a)* 744; *(b)* 303

The Department does not hold any information about official's nugatory expenditure connected with travel.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to provide money from the Digital Switchover Helpscheme Fund to pay for other services; and how much he expects to provide initially. [298930]

Mr. Simon: The Digital Switchover Help Scheme has mailed more than 2.1 million eligible persons and completed over 180,000 installations and deliveries. It does look highly likely that there will be an under spend in the help scheme, though the switchover process has only just begun in earnest and the final outturn will depend on take up rates which could differ around the country and over time.

The Government are discussing arrangements for the redeployment of under spend with the BBC Trust.

Local Press

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects the pilots of the proposed independently funded news consortia to start; which English region will host a pilot scheme;

what plans he has to fund such pilot schemes; and what plans he has to make provisions in relation to the existing regional news employees in the pilot area. [298906]

Mr. Simon: The Government expect the independently funded news consortia pilots to commence in 2010; the English region will be determined by Christmas 2009; the Government will be announcing its funding conclusions shortly; and matters of employment have been discussed with the Channel 3 public service broadcasters and are being looked at further as part of the tender process.

Sportsgrounds

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Football Association and *(b)* Premier Rugby on primacy of tenure at shared stadia. [299091]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have had no recent discussions with either the Football Association or Premier Rugby about the primacy of tenure at shared stadia. This is a matter for the national governing bodies and individual clubs to discuss and agree.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission when the Electoral Commission plans to publish its guidance on the new provisions on non-resident donors in the Political Parties and Elections Bills. [298643]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it will develop guidance on the new provisions when the commencement date of the provisions is confirmed and the contents of any secondary legislation relating to the provisions are known.

I also refer the hon. Member to comments made by the Minister of State for Justice, the right hon. Member for North Swindon (Mr. Wills), on 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 687, during consideration of Lords Amendments to the Bill that

> "given their complexity, we are practically unable to commence provision before the summer of 2010".

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average cost of processing a Single Farm Payment scheme claim was in each of the last four years for which figures are available; how many such claims were made in each such year; what the *(a)* mean, *(b)* median, *(c)* minimum and *(d)* maximum claim was in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [297666]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 3 November 2009]*: The estimated average administrative cost of processing an individual Single Payment Scheme claim for each of the following years is as follows:

	£
2006-07	713
2007-08	758
2008-09	751

These costs are the direct processing costs and exclude compliance activity and the investment in new systems and improvement projects.

The NAO Value for Money Report quoted the following figures for the processing cost per claimant calculated on the basis of including IT depreciation, amortisation, contractors, staff costs, accommodation, foreign exchange, communication and other non-IT running costs.

	£
2005-06	1,432
2006-07	1,486
2007-08	1,696
2008-09	1,743

The following table gives the number of SPS claims, as recorded in the NAO Value for Money Report, made in England for scheme years 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Single payment scheme year	*Number of claims*
2005	116,474
2006	109,100
2007	106,700
2008	106,500

In an answer given to the hon. Member for Westmorland and Lonsdale (Tim Farron) on 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 89W, the *(a)* mean, *(b)* median, *(c)* minimum and *(d)* maximum claim value for the SPS 2007 was reported as:

	£
Lowest	0.01
Highest	2,191,054.026
Median	4,593.99
Mean	13,920.94

The lowest value is a result of a non-compliance penalty.

The information in respect of the *(a)* mean, *(b)* median, *(c)* minimum and *(d)* maximum claim value in the other scheme years is not readily accessible and I will write with the information, along with an update on SPS 2007 when it is available, with a copy being placed in the House Library.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of single farm payments which have been *(a)* withheld and *(b)* cancelled by the Rural Payments Agency in each of the last five years. [298978]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is not readily accessible and I will write with the information when it is available, with a copy being placed in the House Library.

Bees

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether *(a)* bacillus thuringiensis and *(b)* agro bacterium have been identified in cases of bee colony collapse. [299013]

Dan Norris: The Food and Environment Research Agency's National Bee Unit has been investigating the causes of colony losses in England and Wales over the past two years. The results have shown that the most important risk factor in the mortality or weakening of colonies is deformed wing virus, a virus transmitted by the parasitic varroa mite, clearly indicating failed or unsuccessful treatments of mite infestations. Samples were not screened for bacillus thuringiensis or agro bacterium as these have not been identified as possible risk factors. A final report with the results from the investigations into abnormal colony losses will be published later this year.

Biochar

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential use of biochar as a means of promoting agricultural production; and if he will make a statement. [298408]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 9 November 2009]*: No formal assessment has been made of the potential use of biochar as a means of promoting agricultural production. However, a short research project has been commissioned to assess the potential benefits, costs and issues surrounding the addition of biochar to soil. The research report will critically review the state of knowledge regarding biochar, identify the uncertainties and the risks associated with the addition of biochar to soil, and identify gaps in the evidence base. We expect the review will be completed by the end of December 2009.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many landowners in each designated area *(a)* were requested to take part in, *(b)* took part in and *(c)* refused to take part in the bovine TB vaccination programme for badgers; and what financial incentives are available to land owners to encourage them to participate in the programme. [298903]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) are currently in the process of signing up landowners in the project catchment areas. Fera are inviting all registered cattle owners in the six 75,000 acre catchment areas to register their interest with the aim of identifying potential participants on up to 25,000 acres of land on which to vaccinate badgers. Therefore not all farmers within the catchment areas will be able to participate in the project.

This is an ongoing process and Fera have not yet completed the process of writing to all cattle owners in the catchment areas. However, the response so far has been encouraging with 255 landowners responding positively.

The following table sets out the responses we have received from the landowners we have approached so far, and is correct as of 5 November 2009:

Catchment area	*Number of letters sent to farmers*	*Information and registration meeting held in area*	*Number of positive responses to date*	*Number of negative responses to date*
Staffordshire: Centred on Eccleshall	420 sent 16 October 2009	Meeting confirmed	89	0
Herefordshire/Worcestershire: East of Tenbury Wells	248 sent 23 October 2009	Meeting confirmed	27	0
Gloucestershire: Cotswold north east of Cheltenham	106 sent 28 September 2009	Yes	32	0
Gloucestershire: North west of Stroud	[1]259 sent 28 September 2009	Yes	106	9
Devon: West of Tiverton	To be sent	Meeting confirmed	1	0
Devon: South east of Tiverton	To be sent	Meeting confirmed	0	0

[1] Letters and visits to landowners.

Note:

The table was provided by Fera.

There are no financial incentives available to farmers to encourage participation. The project is free for farmers to participate and they do not have to take any action themselves other than grant access to their land. Participating farmers will also potentially reduce the risk of transmission from badgers to their cattle.

Cattle: Animal Welfare

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps he plans to take to improve the animal welfare standards of cattle; and if he will make a statement; [298900]

(2) what steps he has taken to improve training for those involved in maintaining the welfare of cattle. [298901]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The welfare of cattle is provided for by way of the general provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007, which has specific schedules relating to cattle and calf welfare. DEFRA also has a welfare code for cattle which provides good husbandry advice, which producers have by law to be familiar with and have access to.

Animal Health enforces on-farm welfare legislation and conducts regular programmed inspections of farmed premises to check the welfare of livestock, as well as investigating all complaints and allegations about poor welfare on-farm.

DEFRA is currently considering the Farm Animal Welfare Council's Opinion and the European Commission's European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) reports on the welfare of dairy cows which have been recently published. The findings of both will feed into the UK's negotiating line for the Council of Europe's Convention on the Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes current discussions on revising its cattle recommendation.

DEFRA has a contract with ADAS to run an advisory programme for farmers in England to encourage good animal welfare. Each year ADAS run, on DEFRA's behalf, a series of awareness campaigns for producers to promote good standards of animal welfare and husbandry. This year's cattle campaign will focus on promoting best practice in managing the dairy cow around calving. In previous years, successful campaigns have included lameness and herd mobility scoring, avoiding losses and improving welfare in cattle rearing systems and housing the modern dairy cow.

DEFRA's animal welfare research programme also funds research into welfare issues affecting dairy cattle. Recent projects include: alleviation of lameness in dairy heifers; development of a lameness control plan; and investigating the management and welfare of the continuously housed cows.

Cetaceans

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Leominster of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1002W, on cetaceans, what information his Department holds on the recipients of the video and photographic material collected by the Sea Mammal Research Unit; [298986]

(2) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Leominster of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1004-5W on cetaceans, for what reasons evidence of cetaceans being caught in nets collected as part of Government-funded research is not made publicly available; and what account he take of obligations under the EU Habitats Directive on decisions on whether to make available such evidence; [299066]

(3) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Leominster of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1004-5W, on cetaceans, whether *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* advisers and *(c)* officials in his Department have seen the photographic and video evidence of cetaceans being caught in nets collected by the Sea Mammal Research Unit; [298995]

(4) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Leominster of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1004-5W, on cetaceans, whether photographic and video evidence of cetaceans being caught in nets collected by the Sea Mammal Research Unit as part of Government-funded research has been destroyed; and what his policy is on the *(a)* retention and *(b)* publication of the outcomes of research funded by his Department; [299065]

(5) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Leominster of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1004-5W, on cetaceans, what photographic and video evidence of cetaceans being caught in nets has been collected by the Sea Mammal Research Unit as part of Government-funded research since July 2008; and if he will *(a)* obtain and *(b)* make publicly available the photographic and video evidence of cetaceans being caught in nets collected by the Sea Mammal Research Unit. [299067]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK is committed to reducing cetacean by-catch and has put over £2 million from 2000 to date into researching by-catch mitigation measures and monitoring by-catch in the UK fleet. The purpose of the research is to try to identify those fisheries responsible for high levels of cetacean by-catch and test mitigation measures that are effective at deterring cetaceans over the long-term and are safe and cost-effective for the industry. This research is undertaken by the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU).

My Department does not hold, nor has it been supplied with, video or photographic material as part of the cetacean by-catch mitigation research projects that it has commissioned SMRU to undertake.

No Minister, official or adviser presently in the Department has seen footage provided by SMRU, and no data are held by the Department on any recipients of video and photographic material.

Any video or photographic material collected is used by SMRU as a monitoring tool to corroborate findings and to verify observations of the crew and observers on board boats. SMRU does not maintain a photographic database on this issue and all video tapes are re-used once the information on them has been verified. These data are used to produce project reports (defined as project outcomes under the research projects) that are published on the DEFRA website. The outcomes of the research projects are therefore made publicly available.

The EU Habitats Directive places no obligation on the Department to publish data or research carried out into the incidental capture and killings of cetaceans by fishing activities. However, as outlined above, our research and findings are published. In addition, annual estimates of cetacean by-catch in the UK fleet are published on the DEFRA website.

As SMRU does not maintain a photographic database and has a policy of reusing video tapes, as in all other years, no video or photographic material collected under the research contract is in existence for the period of July 2008 to date.

Dogs: Animal Welfare

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many meetings his Department has had with canine welfare organisations on the matter of dangerous dogs in the last 12 months. [297278]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA meets regularly with canine welfare groups at both ministerial and official level to discuss a number of issues, including dangerous dogs. In the last 12 months we have specifically discussed the issue of dangerous dogs with the RSPCA on at least five occasions, the Dogs Trust at least three times and we have had two meetings that have included representatives from Battersea Dogs and Cats Home.

Fish: Disease Control

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's latest assessment is of the effects of koi herpes virus disease on fish stocks; and if he will make a statement. [298987]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The range of fish species susceptible to Koi herpes virus is very limited. Only common carp and Koi carp are listed in EU legislation as being susceptible. Therefore, the effect of Koi herpes virus on fish stocks generally is considered negligible.

Fisheries

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many UK pair trawlers currently fish for bass beyond 12 nautical miles in the Western Channel. [298985]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Current information indicates that there is only one UK pair trawler (two vessels) fishing for bass in the Western Channel at present.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many foreign-registered vessels have pair trawled within the UK's 12 mile limit in each month since the ban on British pair trawlers inside the 12 mile limit was implemented; and when he next plans to discuss with the European Commission the extension of the ban to the vessels of other EU member states. [299005]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We do not hold information on pair-trawlers from other member states operating within the 12 mile limit.

The Commission has indicated that it will review Regulation 812/2004, concerning incidental catches of cetaceans in fisheries, in summer 2010. We will take the opportunity to discuss this matter with other member states and the Commission then.

Food Supply

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to increase the proportion of food consumed in England which is domestically produced. [297496]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Research shows that consumers increasingly want to know how the food they buy has been produced and its provenance. We have helped to facilitate this choice by providing funding for a range of measures to help regional and local food producers improve their access to market. Examples include, "meet the buyer" events; the encouragement of food hubs, farm shops, farmers' markets and shared distribution facilities.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of food consumed that is produced domestically. [297523]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The most recent provisional estimate for the amount of food which was produced in the UK and consumed in the UK is 53 per cent. for 2008. 47 per cent. of food consumed in the UK in 2008 was imported.

This should not be confused with the measure of UK self-sufficiency in all food, which in 2008 was 60 per cent. (provisional figure), since self sufficiency shows the percentage of all UK food production, including UK exports, as a percentage of consumption. Both measures are based on the value of unprocessed food.

Marine Management Organisation

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Marine and Fisheries Agency has spent on work by *(a)* external consultants and *(b)* other staff from (i) his Department and (ii) other Government departments in connection with the establishment of the Marine Management Organisation on Tyneside. [298988]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Since 1 April 2008, the Marine and Fisheries Agency has spent £631,000 on staff assigned or seconded to the agency from DEFRA or other Departments and £993,000 on external consultants and temporary staff in preparatory work for the establishment of the Marine Management Organisation. These figures exclude staff costs for those involved in the relocation of the Marine and Fisheries Agency headquarters from London to Newcastle as this activity is not directly related to the establishment of the Marine Management Organisation.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the transfer of the Marine and Fisheries Agency and other agencies to the Marine Management Organisation to be completed. [298990]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Subject to the Marine and Coastal Access Bill receiving Royal Assent, we are planning to launch the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in April 2010. Our intention is that existing marine functions (the bulk of which are currently discharged by the Marine and Fisheries Agency) will transfer at that point to the MMO, along with associated staff and other assets. The MMO will continue to mature and develop from launch, taking on new functions introduced by the Marine and Coastal Access Bill over the first years of its operation.

Pollution Control

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what further steps the Government plan to take to improve the regulatory framework for fine particle PM2.5 emissions in the UK; [298678]

(2) what steps the Government plan to take to implement the objectives under the EU air quality directive and the UK's air quality strategy of monitoring and reducing exposure to industrial fine particle PM2.5 emissions. [298679]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe introduces new requirements for assessment and regulation of fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) in ambient air. These largely mirror those in the 2007 UK National Air Quality Strategy.

The consultation published on 9 November sets out the UK Government's approach to transposing and implementing the requirements of the directive. This is available on DEFRA's website.

The devolved Administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will be publishing similar consultations.

The required monitoring and assessment is in place across the UK and the consultation Impact Assessment shows that, on the basis of current projections, the UK is on track to meet the new legal obligations for $PM_{2.5}$, though this will be kept under review.

Reservoirs: East of England

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many megalitres of water were supplied to water companies serving the East of England from reservoirs in that region in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* the most recent 12 months for which figures are available; and what the average cost of each megalitre was in each such period. [299188]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Water is supplied from a number of sources; data are not collected separately for water supplied from reservoirs or for the cost of that supply.

Each reservoir is different and the cost of supplying a megalitre of water from each of them is not collected by Ofwat. Differences may be due to operational methods, location and requirements to pump.

Figures for water delivered from all sources are available in the following Ofwat reports:

1997-98: Report on leakage and water efficiency—page 36;

2002-03: Security of supply—page 52;

2007-08: Service and delivery report. Supplementary information—page 43;

2008-09: Service and delivery report. Supplementary information—page 43.

All of these reports are available on Ofwat's website at www.ofwat.gov.uk, apart from the 1997-98 report on leakage and water efficiency, a copy of which will be placed in the House Library.

Water Charges: Voluntary Organisations

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to provide to community organisations and parish councils which own community buildings the same concessionary water collection charges as church and scout organisations. [298631]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government are committed to bringing forward legislation to allow water and sewerage companies to operate concessionary schemes for community groups for surface water drainage charges. The legislation will enable DEFRA to issue guidance to companies on how to define community groups and which community groups should be considered for inclusion in concessionary schemes. This guidance will be subject to consultation.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will re-assess the funding formula for concessionary bus fares to reflect the actual cost incurred in each local authority area. [297961]

Mr. Khan: On 4 November 2009, *Official Report*, 45-46WS, I made a written ministerial statement announcing the launch of a consultation on the distribution of concessionary travel special grant funding for local authorities in 2010-11. The consultation proposes a revised distribution of special grant funding for 2010-11 which takes into account the change in spending on concessionary travel by each authority following the introduction of the national concession.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what information his Department holds on the reimbursement rates offered by each local authority for journeys made under the concessionary bus fare scheme. [297962]

Mr. Khan: Reimbursement of bus operators for concessionary travel is a matter for local authorities. The Department for Transport does not hold comprehensive information on the reimbursement arrangements entered into between local authorities and bus operators.

Where a bus operator believes that a local authority's reimbursement arrangements are unfair, they are able to appeal to the Secretary of State for Transport for an impartial assessment of the case. The Department for Transport holds information on the reimbursement rates offered by authorities that have been subject to such appeals.

Bus Services: EC Action

Joan Walley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what representations he has received in respect of the removal of all but international and national coach services from the proposed EU regulation on passenger rights; and if he will make a statement. [298461]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport has received a number of representations in respect of the removal of all but international and national coach services from the proposed European Union Regulation on bus and coach passenger rights. The majority were received in response to the Department's consultation on the proposal carried out earlier this year.

A report summarising the responses and setting out the Government's position has been published on the Department's website. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

Bus Services: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many violent incidents on buses were recorded in the Milton Keynes area in each of the last five years. [297812]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport does not hold statistics on the number of violent incidents on buses.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many complaints about bus services were recorded in the Milton Keynes area in each of the last five years. [297813]

Mr. Khan: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Crossrail Line: Finance

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of the Crossrail project were it to be abandoned in June 2010. [298410]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* This Government remain fully committed to delivering the Crossrail Project. Good progress has been made since the launch of the main construction works in May 2009 and continues to accelerate at pace. Our best current estimate of the costs to the public purse of the delivery of the Crossrail project to June 2010 is as follows:

Project delivery costs—£950 million

Land/Property acquisition—£700 million

Total—£1,650 million

This estimate reflects the latest inflation forecast figures in use by Crossrail Limited. Project delivery costs include the costs of consultancy services procured by the Department for Transport to support the programme.

It is not possible to produce precise estimates as to overall expenditure if the project were to be cancelled. The costs associated with any cancellation would be substantial but would be contingent on a number of different factors, including contractual commitments and potential income from land no longer required. Naturally, the resolution of contractual arrangements would be a matter of significant commercial sensitivity and economic uncertainty.

Cycling

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many cycling officers there are in each local authority. [298951]

Mr. Khan: This is a matter for individual local authorities and no information is held centrally.

Cycling: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what settlements have been designated as cycling communities; and how much funding his Department has allocated to each since their designation. [298953]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport funds 18 "Cycle Cities and Towns" through Cycling England. The first phase of the Cycling Demonstration Towns programme, from 2005 to 2008, saw six towns across England receive European levels of funding to significantly increase their cycling levels. Aylesbury, Brighton and Hove, Darlington, Derby, Exeter and Lancaster with Morecambe collectively received over £7 million from Cycling England across three years, plus local match-funding, to deliver a range of measures designed to get more people cycling.

In June 2008, Cycling England announced Greater Bristol as the England's first official Cycling City, together with a further 11 Cycling Towns across England. The new city and towns, together with the original six, benefit from a share of £55 million of Departmental funding (match funded by the local authority) to pioneer innovative ways to increase cycling in their areas. The table includes £3 million additional funding for 2009-10 announced on 9 November 2009.

Local authorities will be match funding these grants bringing the total funding to over £100 million.

Cycle city or towns - funding (£) by financial year

City or Town	*Local authority*	*2005-08 (1 Nov 2005 to 31 March 2008)*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Total 2008-11*
Aylesbury	Buckinghamshire	765,000	461,632	300,000	300,000	1,603,632
Blackpool	Blackpool	—	400,000	1,295,000	1,285,000	3,715,000
Brighton and Hove	Brighton and Hove	1,389,500	416,477	655,000	535,000	1,876,477
Cambridge	Cambridgeshire	—	1,208,4 94	5,285,000	5,085,000	11,578,49 4
Chester	Cheshire	—	500,000	1,615,000	1,615,000	3,810,000
Colchester	Colchester	—	242,397	1,075,000	1,065,000	2,382,397
Darlington	Darlington	1,148,710	349,999	975,000	965,000	2,289,999
Derby	Derby	1,300,000	501,879	500,000	500,000	1,571,879
Exeter	Devon	1,559,500	595,958	500,000	500,000	1,770,958
Greater Bristol	Bristol City and South Gloucestershire		751,040	760,500	760,500	2,470,040
Lancaster with Morecambe	Lancashire	1,309,200	500,000	500,000	500,000	1,700,000
Leighton-Linslade	Central Bedfordshire	—	567,138	366,000	355,100	1,645,738
Shrewsbury	Shropshire	—	600,000	665,000	665,000	2,065,000
Southend	Southend	—	399,760	1,495,000	1,485,000	3,479,760
Southport and Ainsdale	Sefton Borough Council	—	299,622	825,000	815,000	2,189,622
Stoke	Stoke on Trent	—	880,001	2,075,000	2,065,000	5,020,001
Woking	Surrey	—	366,417	823,000	813,000	2,126,417
York	York City Council	—	535,029	1,620,000	1,655,000	3,810,029
Total		7,471,910	9,575,8 44	21,329,50 0	20,963,60 0	55,105,44 4

Links to schools

The Department provides funding to local authorities for the Links to Schools programme through Sustrans. The purpose of the funding is to encourage children to walk and cycle to school. Links to school is a nationwide programme not directly linked to the cycle town projects.

Links to school funding (£) in cycle towns:

Local Authority	*2005-6*	*2006-7*	*2007-8*
Derby City	60,000	156,000	—
Darlington	35,000	—	—
Lancaster	—	—	100,000
Brighton	70,000	—	—
Exeter City Council	50,000	38,230	—

Cycle Training Grants

For 2009-10 a specific grant was set up for cycle training in cycle city and towns. Before that year, cycle towns could not bid for cycle training funding.

Cycle demonstration towns cycle training funding 2009-10

	Grant award (£)	*Number of training places*
Aylesbury	40,000.00	1,000
Blackpool	32,400.00	900
Brighton and Hove	30,000.00	1,000
Cambridge	22,480.00	562
Chester Council	28,320.00	708
Colchester	27,360.00	684
Darlington	16,920.00	423
Derby	80,000.00	2,000
Exeter	21,440.00	536
Lancaster	15,000.00	375
Leighton Linslade	63,000.00	1,575
Southend on Sea	31,104.00	972
Southport	25,600.00	640
Stoke	72,000.00	1,800
York	16,320.00	480

Local Transport Plan funding

The Department also allocates integrated transport block and highways maintenance funding to local transport authorities for general capital investment in transport. This funding is not ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many first-class flights were taken by each Minister in his Department in 2008-09; and what the *(a)* origin, *(b)* destination and *(c)* cost was of each such flight. [298746]

Chris Mole: No first-class air travel was undertaken by Department for Transport Ministers in 2008-09. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code. The annual list of Ministers' overseas travel costing more than £500 for 2008-09 can be accessed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/226022/travel_2008_2009.pdf

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department's information assurance procedures have been subject to an independent audit. [299383]

Chris Mole: Three of the Department for Transport's Agencies—the Driving Standards Agency, the Vehicle Operator Services Agency and the Driver and the Vehicle Licensing Agency have been subject to independent assessment by CESG (the national technical authority for information assurance), of their information assurance procedures. The central Department will be subject to an independent assessment as part of its annual reporting processes to Cabinet Office in 2009-10.

Departmental [illegible]gy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the *(a)* energy rating and *(b)* energy band of each building occupied by his Department and its agencies was in each of the last five years. [299171]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has 43 buildings that are required to report the energy rating under the Display Energy Certificate scheme introduced by the Department for Communities and Local Government in October 2008. The performance of the buildings covered under that scheme is shown in the table:

		2009		*2008*	
Property centre	*Town*	*Band*	*Rating*	*Band*	*Rating*
DFT—British Transport Police	London	Not due	Not due	E	114
DFT—British Transport Police	London	Not due	Not due	G	229
DFT—British Transport Police	London	Not due	Not due	G	271
DFT—British Transport Police	Tadworth	Not due	Not due	E	118
DFT—DFT Central	Aldershot	Not due	Not due	C	59
DFT—DFT Central	Aldershot	Not due	Not due	D	93
DFT—DFT Central	London	Pending	Pending	G	191
DFT—DFT Central	London	Pending	Pending	G	218
DFT—DFT Central	London	Pending	Pending	n/a	n/a
DFT—DVLA	Bexley	Pending	Pending	G	200
DFT—DVLA	Borehamwood	C	59	C	59
DFT—DVLA	Bournemouth	C	65	C	70
DFT—DVLA	Chelmsford	Pending	Pending	E	125
DFT—DVLA	Exeter	Pending	Pending	G	200
DFT—DVLA	London	D	77	D	88
DFT—DVLA	Manchester	C	51	G	200
DFT—DVLA	Northampton	Pending	Pending	G	200
DFT—DVLA	Nottingham	D	79	G	200
DFT—DVLA	Preston	E	101	D	85
DFT—DVLA	Swansea	Pending	Pending	E	125

		2009		2008	
Property centre	Town	Band	Rating	Band	Rating
DFT—DVLA	Swansea	Pending	Pending	E	125
DFT—DVLA	Swansea	Pending	Pending	E	125
DFT—DVLA	Swansea	Pending	Pending	G	177
DFT—DVLA	Swansea	G	198	G	212
DFT—DVLA	Theale	E	111	E	118
DFT—DSA	Cardington	Pending	Pending	F	132
DFT—DSA	Newcastle upon Tyne	Pending	Pending	G	207
DFT—DSA	Nottingham	Pending	Pending	G	200
DFT—GCDA	London	Not due	Not due	G	241
DFT—HA	Birmingham	D	93	n/a	n/a
DFT—HA	Bristol	D	92	n/a	n/a
DFT—HA	Godstone	B	42	n/a	n/a
DFT—HA	Leeds	Pending	Pending	F	134
DFT—HA	Newton-Le-Willows	B	41	n/a	n/a
DFT—HA	Potters Bar	D	78	n/a	n/a
DFT—HA	Wakefield	C	55	n/a	n/a
DFT—MCA	Cardiff	Pending	Pending	E	109
DFT—MCA	Southampton	D	84	F	149
DFT—VOSA	Bristol	Pending	Pending	F	127
DFT—VOSA	Bristol	Pending	Pending	F	127
DFT—VOSA	Bristol	Pending	Pending	F	127
DFT—VOSA	Leeds	Pending	Pending	E	114
DFT—VCA	Bristol	Pending	Pending	n/a	n/a

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department and its agencies on procurement under tender because the tender process had been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last 12 months. [299357]

Chris Mole: There have been a very small number of instances during the last 12 months where tendering exercises have been cancelled prior to the award of the contract and thereby costs have been incurred with no contract awarded. For the Department for Transport, this would normally amount to the effort expended on the procurement exercise before its cancellation. The precise number and costs involved are not recorded.

The occasion where the Department has incurred nugatory costs was for the procurement of a fleet of new build diesel rolling stock which ceased in July, as it was superseded by the Government's announcement on rail electrification. The costs incurred for the use of external advisors was £1.6 million.

The Department has not reimbursed any supplier during the last 12 months for costs that they have incurred as a result of tendering for any contract advertised by the Department where the award process for that contract was subsequently cancelled.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Databases

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has produced a privacy impact assessment in relation to any of its databases or data held within them. [299392]

Paul Clark: In the period from December 2008 to November 2009 the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) has conducted Privacy Impact Assessments on the following areas:

Certificate of Professional Competence Release 2

WebLogic 7Up interface project

EU 3rd Directive

DVLA Accuracy Surveys

Continuous Insurance Enforcement 2

C02 European Community Whole Vehicle Type Approval.

Currently in process:

Northern Ireland Vehicle Information System

Payment Card Data Security

Transport for London: Change of supplier to Congestion Charge service.

Driving Tests: Motorcycles

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many Driving Standards Agency occasional-use test centres offer module two of the new two-part motorcycle test; and how many such tests have been *(a)* requested and *(b)* conducted at each centre since the revised arrangements came into effect in April 2009. [298559]

Paul Clark: The Driving Standards Agency offers Module 2 motorcycle tests at 33 occasional-use centres. The number of Module 2 motorcycle tests booked and conducted at those centres, for the period 27 April to 5 November 2009, is shown in the following table.

Test centre	Module 2 tests booked	Module 2 tests conducted
Alness	0	0
Ballachulish	0	0
Ballater	0	0
Banff	0	0
Benbecula Island	0	0
Berwick-on-Tweed	71	17
Brodick (Isle of Arran)	0	0
Buckie	0	0
Campbeltown	0	0
Fort William	0	0
Gairloch	0	0
Golspie	0	0
Grantown-On-Spey	0	0
Huntly	0	0
Inveraray (Argyll)	0	0
Inverurie (Grampian)	0	0
Island of Mull (Salen)	0	0
Islay Island	0	0
Isle of Skye (Portree)	0	0
Isle of Tiree	0	0
Kingussie	0	0
Kyle of Lochalsh	0	0
Lairg	0	0
Lerwick (Shetland)	3	3
Llandrindod Wells	104	18
Lochgilphead	0	0
Mallaig	0	0
Oban	0	0
Orkney (Kirkwall)	26	10
Stornoway (Lewis)	0	0
Stranraer	0	0

Test centre	*Module 2 tests booked*	*Module 2 tests conducted*
Thurso	0	0
Ullapool	0	0

Fisheries: Accidents

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many fishermen have died on *(a)* under 10 and *(b)* over 10 metre fishing vessels in UK waters since 1997. [298994]

Paul Clark: Between 1 January 1997 to 6 November 2009 the following numbers of fatalities to fishing vessel crew in UK 12 mile territorial waters have been reported to Marine Accident Investigation Branch:

(a) under 10 metres registered length: 51

(b) 10 metres registered length or more: 69

Government Departments: Official Cars

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the Government Car and Despatch Agency of the implementation of new working time regulations. [298778]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* The implementation costs to the Government Car Agency of introducing new working practices to meet its obligations under the working time regulations 1998 are estimated to be £161,000.

The new working practices will reduce the cost to the taxpayer. Under the new system, drivers work a single daily shift of 10 hours. Ministers continue to have one dedicated driver (apart from those in the high security category), but any ministerial driving outside of standard hours is met, on demand, by the Government Car and Despatch Agency's low carbon taxi service. This is a better deal for tax payers than the previous arrangements.

M42: Cameras

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many fixed cameras are in use on the M42 motorway; for what purposes such cameras are used; and for what reason this number of cameras is deemed necessary. [298249]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* There are 303 permanent cameras installed on the M42. These are broken down as follows:

47 'pan and tilt' cameras—these are used by the Highways Agency's Regional Control Centre (RCC) for general monitoring of the traffic flows and incidents on the motorway;

192 fixed cameras installed on gantries throughout the 'Managed Motorway' section between Junctions 3a and 7. These are used by the RCC for safety purposes to monitor traffic flows within the Managed Motorway section, which includes hard shoulder running and use of the Emergency Refuge Areas; and

64 fixed safety cameras used by the police to monitor compliance with speed limits within the Managed Motorway section.

The section of M42 between Junctions 3a and 7 was used as a pilot for the Managed Motorways programme and the number of cameras installed reflects the need to carefully monitor performance for the collation of data to inform future similar schemes.

Marine Accident Investigation Branch

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many incidents the Marine Accident Investigation Branch has investigated since 1997. [298992]

Paul Clark: From 1 January 1997 to 6 November 2009 the Marine Accident Investigation Branch has completed 419 full investigations and a further 259 preliminary examinations.

Official Cars

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2008, *Official Report,* column 212W, which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior civil servants are allocated use of a car with a driver at public expense, according to records held by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [299323]

Paul Clark: The Ministerial Code sets out who is entitled to use an official car provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Palm Oil

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department was represented at the most recent Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil meeting; and if he will make a statement. [298527]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport is not a member of the Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). The RSPO annual meeting (2 to 4 November) was attended by a Government official from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) posted to the south east Asia region. FCO officials work closely with counterparts in the UK to represent wider government interests and to keep policy makers informed of relevant developments abroad. The UK Government are also working with other countries through the Global Bioenergy Partnership and bilaterally to develop global voluntary sustainability criteria and indicators for all biofuels.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he last discussed the use of sustainable palm oil with *(a)* Ministerial colleagues, *(b)* representatives of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, *(c)* representatives of the palm oil industry, *(d)* representatives of environmental non-governmental organisations and *(e)* officials of other Government departments; and if he will make a statement. [298528]

Mr. Khan: Sustainable biofuels were discussed at a ministerial level during the negotiations on the renewable energy directive (RED) and this engagement will continue as the UK develops proposals to implement the directive.

Officials across Government also meet regularly to discuss all biofuels, and the Department for Transport continues to engage with a wide variety of stakeholders from industry and NGOs to discuss sustainability issues.

The Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) (a NDPB), which is the administrator of the renewable transport fuels obligations, has met with UK based suppliers of biofuel to encourage the sourcing of certified sustainable palm and have attended palm oil events in Kuala Lumpur this year. The RFA is preparing a short report on the use of palm oil as a biodiesel feedstock as part of their annual report to Parliament in January.

Railways: France

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will make representations to the European Commission on the policy of the French government in offering an exclusive contract to operate the Paris Metro to a state-owned monopoly; and if he will make a statement. [298558]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* My hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, included in his answer to the same question on 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 793-4W, that representations on transport policy are the responsibility of the Department for Transport. The Department makes frequent representations to the European Commission, and to our fellow EU member states, about the importance of implementing truly liberalised and competitive transport operations across all modes of transport.

The Department pursues with the European Commission specific representations about non-compliance with EU competition law where we consider there are proper grounds for doing so. The Department has not to date made representations specifically relating to the operation of the Paris Metro.

Railways: Franchises

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1103W on railways; franchises, which franchise operator received a payment from his Department in October 2006; and how much that payment was. [299344]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not publish details on compensation payments made to individual train operating companies for net losses arising from industrial action on the grounds of commercial confidentiality.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many average speed cameras are in operation on *(a)* Highways Agency roads and motorways and *(b)* other roads. [297836]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 5 November 2009]:* The Department for Transport does not hold information about the number of average speed cameras on local roads. Since 1 April 2007, individual local road safety partnerships have been entirely responsible for the installation and operation of all cameras within their area.

The Highways Agency currently has permanent average speed cameras at 10 locations on the strategic road network.

Temporary average speed cameras are used on roadwork schemes on the strategic road network. The number utilised varies according to the complexity of the site for example the number of lanes and junctions and volume of traffic contained within it, and not all of the cameras may be operational at any one time.

Further information on the location of both permanent and temporary average speed camera sites can be obtained from the safety camera partnerships websites which are listed within the Highways Agency website:

http://www.highways.gov.uk/knowledge/11512.aspx

Taxis: Disabled

Mr. Scott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions his Department has had on the merits of setting outline design parameters for wheelchairs to allow for their access to and secure fixing in taxis. [298970]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport has recently carried out a consultation exercise about how best to enhance the provision of taxis for people with disabilities, including wheelchair users. The consultation asked about the broad policy approach as well as technical specifications. As part of this exercise, officials engaged in discussions with a range of organisations and arranged regional roadshows.

I announced the way forward in a written ministerial statement on 28 October 2009.

Transport

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he next intends to publish an update of his Department's guidance, New Approach to Transport Appraisal. [298457]

Mr. Khan: The New Approach to Transport Appraisal (NATA) is kept under constant review but the definitive set of documents, for use in preparing business cases, is only updated each year in spring.

We have recently published a set of new documents, for which we are inviting comment from interested parties, and aim to finalise by spring 2010.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* energy rating and *(b)* energy band of each building occupied by his Department and its agencies was in each year for which figures are available. [299313]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) publish central Government Departments' Display Energy Certificate (DEC) operational ratings on a building by building level twice a year. The most recent data, published on 31 July 2009, contain DEC data up to and including 28 February. Data relating to the month ending 30 September will be published on 18 December. This is available online at:

www.ogc.gov.uk/sustainability_programme_progress

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department travelled by (i) car, (ii) rail and (iii) air on Government business in each year since 1997. [298543]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The requested information could not be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

Travel by Ministers and officials is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial Code and Civil Service Code respectively.

Sri Lanka

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many visits members of his Department have made to the camps for internally-displaced Tamils in Sri Lanka since May 2009; and how many requests to visit such camps have been refused by the Sri Lankan authorities. [299218]

Mr. Michael Foster: Since May 2009, our Humanitarian Adviser, based at the High Commission in Colombo, has visited the internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in Vavuniya at least once a month to assess the humanitarian situation and monitor the progress of Department for International Development (DFID) funded projects. In September she also visited the IDP camps in Jaffna. Officials from London have accompanied her on various occasions.

No requests to visit the camps have been refused by the Sri Lankan authorities.

Syria: Overseas Aid

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has provided to Syria *(a)* directly and *(b)* through multi-lateral agencies for assistance to Palestinian refugees in each year since 2002. [299219]

Mr. Michael Foster: Department for International Development (DFID) support to Palestinian refugees in Syria is through the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) who assist more than 450,000 refugees providing them with education, health care, social support and microfinance opportunities. Most of our assistance is core funding to UNRWA's budget of which approximately 8.5 per cent. is spent in Syria. An annual breakdown is in the following table. In 2007 the UK committed £100 million over five years in core funding to UNRWA.

£ million

	UK funding to UNRWA general fund (calendar year)	*Estimated UNRWA spend in Syria (per calendar year)*
2002	13	1.10
2003	15.5	1.31
2004	8.5	0.72
2005	13	1.10
2006	16.2	1.37
2007	15.6	1.33
2008	19	1.61
2009	20	1.70

In addition to this funding, the Department for International Development provided a total of £2.6 million between 2001 and 2006 to help develop UNRWA's education system by strengthening management from headquarter to school level. This support helped improve the education provided to all Palestinian refugee children across the region, including in Syria.

Zimbabwe

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent assessment is of the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe. [298973]

Mr. Thomas: The humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe remains challenging:

> Cholera is always present in Zimbabwe and, with the start of the rainy season, a rise in numbers of new cases has already been reported. However, the international community has worked to strengthen health services and provide essential repairs to water and sanitation systems. We are hopeful that the outbreak will not be on the same scale as last year.
>
> The food situation is better than last year following an improved harvest but there will still be a need for extensive international support. The UN estimates that 2.8 million people will require food assistance in early 2010 (compared to around seven million in early 2009).
>
> Farm invasions continue and the risk of displacement for remaining farm-worker families remains a concern.
>
> There has been an isolated outbreak of measles despite successful vaccination and we are watching the situation carefully.

The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided £4.7 million to UNICEF to help prepare for any cholera outbreak and is in discussions with other donors about the best way to assist in the coming months. However, humanitarian support is not the long-term solution to Zimbabwe's problems. Only a resolution of outstanding political issues and progress on much needed reform will ensure that Zimbabwe can feed and provide for the needs of its people.

TREASURY

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the likely effects on small businesses of the downturn in the economy; what assistance he plans to give during the next six months to small businesses; what representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [298226]

Ian Pearson: The Treasury actively monitor economic conditions and their impact on businesses of all sizes. The Chancellor has received a number of suggestions from small businesses for further policy action to respond to the downturn. We have also heard from representative organisations that access to finance remains a challenge for small businesses, but that conditions are improving. All suggestions for further policy action are given careful consideration in the light of the Government's overall policy objectives and public finances.

We have introduced a range of temporary measures to respond to the changing economic conditions and needs of small businesses, and will be reviewing these going forward to ensure that they remain appropriate.

Council Tax: Valuation

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency takes account of reputational issues connected with a dwelling when valuing it for council tax valuation and revaluation purposes. [296749]

Ian Pearson: The basis of valuation for council tax is set out in the Council Tax (Situation and Valuation of Dwellings) Regulations 1992 (SI No. 550) as amended by the Council Tax (Situation and Valuation of Dwellings) (Amendment) Order 1994.

Reputational issues would only be taken into account to the extent that they affect open market value at the relevant valuation date and existed when a property is first entered into a council tax valuation list.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1285W, on departmental rail travel, how many *(a)* journeys were paid for and *(b)* people travelled in each year; whether any nugatory expenditure was incurred in each year; and if he will make a statement. [298173]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: This information is not normally held, because the Treasury's accounting system records the costs of travel but not the number or type of tickets bought. However, the Treasury's travel management company provided information on the number and type of tickets purchased through them covering travel by all members of the Department.

In 2008-09, 191 members of staff took first class rail journeys. Information on the number of travellers in 2007-08 and 2006-07, the number of first class rail journeys taken by departmental staff and whether any nugatory expenditure was incurred in all three years is not available within the disproportionate costs threshold.

Economic Policy

John Hemming: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library copies of the data on which the Treasury Economic Model is based. [297153]

Ian Pearson: The Treasury Public Model was last issued in April 2008. The Treasury macroeconomic model is principally a model of the economic activity described and recorded in the National Accounts published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The model documentation identifies sources for all data on which the model is based, and the data are publicly available from the ONS. An electronic copy of the macroeconomic model documentation for the March 2008 Treasury Public Model has been deposited in the House of Commons Library.

Economic Situation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the findings contained in the latest Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development report on the British economy; and if he will make a statement. [298227]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government take account of a range of external views, including those of the OECD, when making its assessment of the UK economy and in policy formulation. The Government will set out its own updated assessment of the UK and world economies in the pre-Budget report later this autumn.

Excise Duties: Diesel

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much tax revenue was foregone as a result of the reduced rate of duty paid on red diesel for the agricultural industry in the latest period for which figures are available. [298169]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Reliable information on the end use of fuel is not available, as fuel duty is paid by fuel producers and importers, rather than by end consumers.

Information on revenue from Hydrocarbon Oils is available from HM Revenue and Customs 'Hydrocarbon Oils Bulletin', which can be found on HMRC's UK Trade Info website. Red diesel is classified as 'gas oil'.

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulloil

Housing Benefit: Travelling People

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the policy is of the Valuation Office Agency's Rent Service on whether Traveller pitches which do not have planning permission may be rated for local housing allowance. [298444]

Ian Pearson: The Local Housing Allowance (LHA) was introduced nationally on 7 April 2008 and is applicable to new applicants for housing benefit or for claimants moving property. However there are exemptions to the LHA and these include pitches or caravans. Therefore any application to the local authority for housing benefit will be subject to a referral to the rent officer and for the rent officer to make a determination of a reasonable rent for housing benefit subsidy purposes. The amount of any award for housing benefit will rest with the local authority.

The rent officer's duty is to determine the reasonableness of the rent being charged for the property in the referral. It is the responsibility of the local authority to assess housing benefit for individual claimants.

Housing Revenue Account

Mr. Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to add the estimated surplus on the housing revenue account (HRA) subsidy to the council house capital debt that is being considered for distribution to local authorities for repayment as part of the review of the HRA subsidy system. [299158]

Mr. Ian Austin: I have been asked to reply.

Our proposals for self-financing would put every local authority in a position to sustain their homes from their own revenues in future, ending the need to redistribute income by means of a one-off reallocation of housing debt. Our consultation paper notes that the total amount of housing debt held by councils under self-financing could be higher or lower than the current level of debt supported through the HRA subsidy system. The debt allocated to each council would be set at a level which it could support within a sustainable business plan which delivers the extra investment we have identified is needed (including an average 24 per cent. increase in funding for major repairs) while continuing to set social rents in line with national policy.

The aggregate amount of housing debt allocated under self-financing will depend on a range of variables in addition to assumptions on annual management, maintenance and repairs. These include rent levels, interest rates, the pricing of risk and the funding of the backlog of repairs. As work on assessing these issues has not yet been completed, I am not in a position to estimate the amount of debt under the new system and ministers have not had discussions on this issue with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I am however clear that the additional spending on management, maintenance and major repairs which we have committed to fund as part of our reforms will mean that all councils are better off under self-financing than they would be if the current system continued unreformed.

Taxation

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of receipts to the Exchequer were received from those *(a)* of working age and *(b)* over retirement age in payment of (i) income tax and (ii) inheritance tax in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [298979]

Mr. Timms: Information on age of taxpayer based on receipts is not readily available as employers' PAYE payments are made in aggregate. However, available information on tax liability for 2009-10 (a total of £141 billion) suggests that around 9 per cent. is in respect of people of state pension age by the end of the year, with the remainder for people of working age. This estimate is based on the Survey of Personal Incomes of which 2006-07 is the latest available, and projected in line with Budget 2009 assumptions.

Age breakdowns of Inheritance Tax received from estates (£2,769 million in 2008-09) can be provided only in terms of the age at death of the deceased. The proportions arising from estates where the age at death was under and over state Pension Age are 5 per cent. and 95 per cent. respectively. No information is held on the ages of beneficiaries of estates. Inheritance Tax received from settlers and trustees of discretionary trusts (£70 million in 2008-09) can not be broken down by age.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much and what proportion of council tax is raised from *(a)* those over retirement age and *(b)* people of working age; and if he will make a statement. [298980]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Central Government do not hold the necessary information on local government to inform this answer.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent assessment he has made of the merits of introducing new mechanisms for settling tax liabilities; [299220]

(2) what mechanisms HM Revenue and Customs has in place to assess the cost-effectiveness of different methods of debt collection; [299221]

(3) what recent progress HM Revenue and Customs has made on its risk-profiling work in relation to tax debt. [299222]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the Treasury Minute response to the twenty sixth report of the Committee of Public Accounts (HM Revenue and Customs—management of tax debt) laid before the House on 28 October 2009 and available at:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm77/7717/7717.pdf

Unfortunately the previous answer included an incorrect figure for the amount spent in 2007-08. This figure was provided to HM Treasury by its travel management company and should have been shown as £330,000. I apologise for the error.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment HM Revenue and Customs has made of the performance of private debt collection agencies in collecting tax debt. [299223]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is currently undertaking a small scale six month pilot exercise involving the use of private sector debt collection. The pilot is due to run until December 2009, and will inform decisions taken on the future use of debt collection agencies.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the level of compatibility of corporation tax regimes in the Crown Dependencies with the EU code of conduct on taxation. [299224]

Mr. Timms: The EU Code of Conduct Group has to date not referred the current Corporate Tax Regimes of the Crown Dependencies for assessment under the criteria of the EU Code of Conduct.

Recently, the UK has had discussions with its Crown Dependencies about their long-term sustainability which take account of the emerging global consensus among G20 countries on a range of international financial issues. These discussions are continuing.

Valuation Office: Training

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what courses representatives of the Valuation Office Agency have attended at the National School of Government in the last 36 months; and at what cost to the public purse in each case. [294441]

Ian Pearson: The following table shows the courses representatives of the Valuation Office Agency have attended at the National School of Government in the last 36 months and at what cost to the public purse in each case.

	Course	Charge (£)
2006	Prince 2 For Practitioners	1,975.00
	Prince 2 For Practitioners	1,975.00
	Managing Project Risk	875.00
	Prince 2 For Practitioners	1,975.00
	Analysis and Use of Evidence for SCS	540.00
	Senior Professional Administration Training	850.00
2007	Appearing Before the Select Committee	1,550.00
	Senior Professional Administration Training	850.00
	Top Management Forum (Seminar 4)	95.00
	Introduction to Programme Management	450.00
	Management of Risk	1,075.00
	Management of Risk	1,075.00
	Project Manager's Foundation	1,130.00
	Top Management Forum (Seminar 6)	85.00
	Leadership and Resilience	450.00
	Project Manager's Foundation (exam resit)	150.00
	Programme and Project Support Office	980.00
	Programme and Project Support Office	980.00
	Baseline Personnel Security	395.00
	Baseline Personnel Security	395.00
	Programme and Project Support Office (cancellation fee)	90.00
	Programme and Project Support Office	980.00
	Programme and Project Support Office	980.00
	Prince 2 For Practitioners	1,975.00
	Recording Information on COINS	130.00
	Recording Information on COINS	130.00
	Senior Professional Administration Training	1,150.00
	Financial Management at Grade 7	895.00
2008	Getting To Grips With Workforce Planning	375.00
	Prince 2 For Practitioners	1,975.00
	Senior Professional Administration Training	1,150.00
	Measuring Organisational Performance	2,500.00
	Strategic Communication Planning	1,175.00
	Unit 3 of Chartered Management Institute Diploma	150.00
	Unit 7 of Chartered Management Institute Diploma	550.00
	Unit 5 of Chartered Management Institute Diploma	250.00
	Government Finance and Accounting	890.00
	Project Management Essentials	1,300.00
	Prince 2 For Practitioners	2,250.00
	The Challenge of Delivery	425.00
	Creating an Innovative Culture	490.00
	Staff Inspection Techniques Training	1,950.00
	Programme and Project Support Office	980.00
	Best Practice for Audit Committees	350.00
	Best Practice for Audit Committees	350.00
	Getting To Grips With Workforce Planning	395.00
	Strategic Communication Planning	1,200.00
2009	Senior Finance Programme Public Expenditure	870.00
	Public Accountability Tailored Event	750.00
	Changing Culture, Strengthening Delivery	245.00
	Training for NDPB Board Members	16,761.90
	Programme and Project Support Office	980.00
	Introduction to Public Accountability	665.00
	Baseline Personnel Security	355.00
	Unit 12 of Chartered Management Institute Diploma	580.00
	Introduction to Purchasing	990.00

JUSTICE

Pleural Plaques: Compensation

17. **Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to announce his decision on compensation for those with pleural plaques. [298581]

Bridget Prentice: The House of Lords decision has raised extremely complex and difficult issues which have required very careful consideration. We are actively considering all of these in order to give a final response as soon as possible.

Legal Aid: Child Abuse Cases

21. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the future provision of legal aid in child abuse cases; and if he will make a statement. [298585]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have no plans to make any changes to the provision of legal aid to defendants in child abuse cases. Where child care proceedings are concerned, legal aid is provided to both parents and children without regard to their means.

Solicitors: Overpayments

22. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he next expects to meet the Legal Services Commission to discuss its overpayments to solicitors in 2008-09. [298586]

Bridget Prentice: My right hon. Friend, the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr. Straw) and my noble Friend, Lord Bach, Legal Aid Minister met Commissioners from the Legal Services Commission on 21 October and the matter concerning 'overpayments to solicitors' was part of the discussions. Ministers have and will continue to hold regular meetings with the Legal Services Commission.

Prisoner Voting Rights

23. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress he has made in the second stage of his consultation on voting rights for prisoners; and if he will make a statement. [298587].

Mr. Wills: The second consultation on the voting rights of convicted prisoners closed on 29 September 2009. The Government are carefully studying the responses and will set out the next steps in due course

Housing: Released Prisoner

24. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the provision of housing for offenders on their release from prison. [298588]

Maria Eagle: Ministers from the Ministry of Justice and Communities and Local Government regularly discuss matters relating to socially excluded adults and offenders, including housing at the Life Chances Social Exclusion Cabinet Committee and the Reducing Re-offending Inter Ministerial Group.

Female Imprisonment

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect of the imprisonment of women on their children. [298568]

Maria Eagle: We recognise there is an impact: only 5 per cent. of these children remain in the family home when their mothers are imprisoned and 12 per cent. are taken into care or are adopted.

There is an intergenerational effect. 65 per cent. of boys with a convicted parent go on to offend. The children of offenders are at much greater risk of poor outcomes in life then other groups. That is why we seek to divert less serious female offenders from what are often short prison sentences as Baroness Corston suggested in her report.

British Values Roadshow

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate has been made of the cost of planned British values roadshow and consultation events. [299075]

Mr. Wills: The Government held a series of five deliberative events on Identity, Values and a possible Bill of Rights and Responsibilities during October. Two further events, both of which will cover a Bill of Rights and Responsibilities and a written constitution, will take place on 21 and 28 November. There will be a National Deliberative Event in the new year.

It is not possible to finalise the actual costs until all of the events have taken place, however, it is anticipated that this will come to less than £1 million in total.

Human Trafficking: Proceeds of Crime

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many confiscation orders against people convicted of human trafficking offences have been made in each of the last three years; and how much money has been realised from them. [298927]

Claire Ward: The available information is shown in the following table.

Total confiscation orders made against offenders convicted of human trafficking, since 2005

	Total confiscation orders	*Total amount (£)*
2005	0	0
2006	3	5,940
2007	6	9,120

Notes:
1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
2. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Data for 2008 will be available once 'Sentencing Statistics 2008' is published in early 2010.

The figures shown here relate solely to cases recorded on the Ministry of Justice courts proceedings database where an offence of Human trafficking was the principal offence for which the offender was sentenced and where the confiscation order was made at the point of sentence. It is possible that a confiscation order can be made in a separate court appearance following sentence. These cases are not included in this answer and it is likely the true number of confiscation orders may be higher than is presented here.

The amount realised from these confiscation orders could only be obtained at disproportionate cost by matching individual case files with records from the court proceedings database.

Magistrates Courts: Haverfordwest

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had on the future of Haverfordwest Magistrates' Court. [297793]

Bridget Prentice: All Pembrokeshire magistrates court business has been listed at the Law Courts, Hawthorn Rise, Haverfordwest, since 2001, at which stage extensive building work was undertaken to provide suitable accommodation at the site. The county court for Pembrokeshire also sits in separate courts within that building. The Law Courts are strategically placed to undertake all the magistrates and county court business within Pembrokeshire and it is planned to continue using the building for these purposes for the foreseeable future.

Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 90W, on prisoner escapes, what the name is of the person convicted of murder who is unlawfully at large; on what date his or her *(a)* offence and *(b)* conviction took place; what the length of his or her sentence was; on what date he or she absconded, and from which prison; whether he or she was on any form of work or temporary release; what his or her security classification was at the time of absconding; and whether he or she had been subject to any punishments for breach of prison discipline while in prison. [298460]

Mr. Straw: The prisoner serving a sentence of murder that remains unlawfully at large was sentenced to life imprisonment on 31 October 1989 for a single offence of murder committed on 27 August 1988. He did not have a history of violent offending before this offence. He was re-categorised as category D and allocated to Ford open prison in February 2009. Prisoners located in open conditions have been risk assessed and categorised as being of low risk to the public and as such he is not considered to be dangerous. He absconded from HM Prison Ford in August 2009. He was not on temporary release licence when he absconded. He was found guilty of a total of 39 disciplinary offences during his 20 years of imprisonment, most of which were for disobeying lawful orders or for being abusive towards staff. All of these would have been subject to disciplinary punishment.

It is obviously in general much in the public interest that the names of those escaping and absconding should be made public, but there can be operational or other reasons for not doing so in specific cases. I will write to the hon. Member with the name of the offender when the police have confirmed that there is no difficulty in placing this in the public domain.

Over 96 per cent. of prisoners who abscond are re-captured and returned to custody. On re-capture the prisoner will be returned to a closed prison and referred to the police for consideration for prosecution for having been unlawfully at large.

Prisoners: Females

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on reducing the number of women in prison. [298576]

Maria Eagle: The Government are committed to diverting vulnerable women, who are not serious or dangerous offenders, from custody. We have provided £15.6 million of new funding over two years from 2009-11 for the provision of additional services in the community for women offenders and women at risk of offending.

Many female offenders have an acute combination of complex issues that lie behind their offending and prison does not provide an effective way to address these problems. The Government have already allocated £3.1 million from this fund and last week allocated a further £6.8 million to third sector providers, to help develop a network of provisions across the country to tackle the cause of offending behaviour for women who are not a danger to the public, both pre and post conviction.

Prisons: Freedom of Information

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has plans to extend to private prisons the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [298646]

Mr. Wills: On 16 July, the Government published the response to its consultation on extending the Freedom of Information Act by means of a section 5 order. It noted that it was not minded to include private prisons in an initial order. However, the Government has made it clear it intends to keep the extension of the Act under review.

Vetting: Local Government

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance has been given to local authorities by the Information Commissioner on the classifying of individuals on List 98. [298446]

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has not issued any guidance to local authorities on this matter.

However, "The Employment Practices Code" produced by the ICO contains guidance for employers on a range of data protection issues including pre-employment checks.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Energy: Housing

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average level of energy consumption was for a domestic property in the last 12 months period for which figures are available. [297156]

Mr. Kidney: The 2009 edition of the Digest of UK Energy Statistics indicates that a total of 45.642 million tonnes of oil equivalent was consumed in the domestic sector during 2009. This equates to 530,816 GWh.

It is estimated that the number of households in the UK during 2008 was around 26.334 million.

This results in an average energy consumption per domestic property of 20,157 kWh.

Natural Gas

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the merits of potential substitutes for natural gas supplies for *(a)* domestic and *(b)* industrial consumption in the UK. [298605]

Mr. Kidney: Potential substitutes for natural gas include (i) using an alternative fossil fuel (ii) using a low carbon source of energy and (iii) using less energy (for example, through increasing energy efficiency). The Government's recent "Low Carbon Transition Plan" set out how Government will stimulate the uptake of low-carbon sources of energy as well as adding impetus to energy efficiency.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the effects of the use of biomass boilers installed to meet Renewable Energy Strategy targets on *(a)* air quality, *(b)* levels of particulate emissions and *(c)* levels of (i) morbidity and (ii) mortality. [296732]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

(a) The Government have, in support of the development of the Renewable Energy Strategy (RES), carried out modelling of the effect of an increase in the use of biomass for heat and power on the emissions, ambient air concentrations and public health impacts of fine particles (PM2.5), coarser particles (PM10) and nitrogen dioxide. The key air quality results of this analysis are given in the Renewable Energy Strategy on page 121.

(b) As part of the analysis the increases in the emissions of particulates were estimated over a number of different scenarios. For PM2.5 these were between 0.75 and 9.1 ktonnes from a baseline in 2007 of 82 ktonnes. For PM10, emissions were estimated as being between 1.3 and 9.5 ktonnes from a 2007 baseline of 135 ktonnes.

(c) (i) The impacts on morbidity resulting from the uptake of biomass as a renewable energy source were not assessed.

(ii) The mortality health impacts of these scenarios were estimated to be between 340,000 and 1,750,000 measured as the number of life years lost in 2020 from the impact on air quality of increased biomass combustion.

The results presented above are for the whole of the UK and are given in their raw output form. The assumptions of each scenario are set out in the Renewable Energy Strategy.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions his Department has had with *(a)* energy companies, *(b)* non-governmental organisations, *(c)* local authorities and *(d)* others on the setting of levels for feed-in tariffs. [299211]

Mr. Kidney: DECC published proposed feed-in tariff levels in the Consultation on Renewable Electricity Financial Incentives 2009 document on 15 July 2009. The document is still available from the DECC website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec_financial/elec_financial.aspx

The consultation closed on 15 October 2009 and we are currently analysing the responses that were received, which numbered in excess of 700. Many of these responses provided detailed information and views on the tariff levels, which we are considering.

Through the consultation period DECC Ministers and officials held a number of meetings with external organisations and spoke at a number of conferences with a wide range of attendees from each of the groups referenced. These conferences included a DECC hosted FITs conference on 18 September, a Scottish Renewables FITs and RO event on 23 September, and a RegenSW FITs conference on 29 September. There was discussion at each of these events on the proposed tariff levels.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Armed Forces

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average tour interval will be for each unit deployed in the next Afghanistan roulement. [297899]

Bill Rammell: Those units that are identified as likely to deploy in the next Afghanistan roulement are not scheduled to redeploy again for at least 24 months following their end of tour. This is entirely consistent with harmony guidelines. Details of the next Afghanistan roulement will be announced in Parliament at the appropriate time.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Pakistan on Taliban activity in the border regions. [296942]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 3 November 2009]:* I held recent discussions on insurgent activity in Afghanistan and Pakistan with Mr. Wardak, the Afghan Minister of Defence, at the NATO ministerial meeting in Bratislava on 29-30 October and with Mr. Mukhtar, the Pakistan Defence Minister and General Kayani, the Chief of the Army Staff of Pakistan, on 6 October during my visit to Pakistan with the Home Secretary.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of *(a)* sleeping bags and *(b)* other kit for troops on active operations in Afghanistan. [299959]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Defence Clothing Team (DCT) provides a range of environmental clothing, including boots, to meet both summer and winter deployments. All armed forces personnel receive a deployment pack, commonly known as the 'black bag' worth £3,000, which provides sufficient clothing and personal equipment to carry out combat operations.

The 'black bag' includes a warm weather sleeping bag for use in the summer conditions found in Afghanistan. In addition, troops are issued a temperate sleeping bag as part of their standard kit issue. Experience has shown the temperate sleeping bag to be capable in temperatures down to around -30°C. Clothing and sleeping bags are designed to be used as layered systems in order to achieve the desired protection and will not work as effectively if not worn as a system.

Additionally, those personnel who are in Afghanistan during the colder months receive extra equipment in their deployment pack, such as 'softee' thermal jackets and trousers, cold weather socks, gloves, headwear, windproof trousers and jackets and cold weather boots. This is the equipment used by our commando forces in Arctic terrain. When worn with the CS95 ensemble, this equipment provides suitable environmental protection for the cold weather temperatures that occur in the winters in Afghanistan.

The DCT and senior military staff regularly visit theatre to assess equipment and continue to seek further improvements. The DCT aims to visit every six months to cover summer and winter tours. The last winter visit took place in December 2008.

Air Force: Navy

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future strength of *(a)* the RAF Auxiliary Reserve, *(b)* the Royal Naval Reserve, *(c)* the Air Cadets and *(d)* the Sea Cadets. [298231]

Bill Rammell: Plans for the Royal Auxiliary Air Force are that the manning level will increase from the current level of 1,521 to 2,000 personnel by the end of 2012.

The strength of the Royal Naval Reserve is determined by the needs of the naval service for reserve personnel to support current and future operations. Force numbers are always under review but at this time there is no plan to change its size.

The Royal Air Force plans to increase the numbers of Air Cadets from 40,000 to 42,000 by 2013, with an eventual target of 50,000 Air Cadets by 2018.

The Sea Cadets are part of the Marine Society and Sea Cadets which is a registered charity. As such we have no input to their present or future strength.

Armed Forces: Equipment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual number is of (i) pieces of night vision equipment, (ii) pieces of body armour and (iii) small arms in the army. [297887]

Mr. Quentin Davies: In terms of night vision optics, the Army currently has 14,634 Common Weapon Sights, 1,777 Maxikite 1 and 4,388 Maxikite 2. Some of these will be upgraded under the Future Infantry System Technology (FIST) programme designed to further improve the equipment available to the infantry soldier. The remainder will then be redistributed to those units and individuals employed in other roles where these capabilities are either non-existent or in short supply. The FIST requirement for night vision optics is shown in the following table. Deliveries of this new equipment are due to begin in September 2010.

Sight	*Future requirement*
Common Weapon Sight II	2,471
Thermal Weapon Sight (VIPIR 3)	4,331
Maxikite 2 Mk 2	1,705
Helmet Mounted Night Vision System II	10,835

Our body armour and small arms holdings and requirements are provided in the following tables.

Body armour type	*Current fleet size*	*Current endorsed requirement*
Enhanced Combat Body Armour	103,604	32,000
Osprey	32,000	11,362
Osprey Assault	[1]5,000	10,000

[1] The second tranche of 5,000 Osprey Assault is due to be delivered in the first quarter of next year.

Weapon	*Current fleet size*	*Requirement*
SA80 A2 (L85A2) (Defence Nos)	176,000	138,570
LSW (L86A2)	11,000	5,000
Pistol L9 Browning (Defence Nos)	24,964	25,000
SA80 Carbine (L22A2)	1,546	1,600
LMG	4,309	4,933

None of the figures above includes equipment procured for use in Afghanistan through the urgent operational requirement process. I am withholding the information as its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the proceeds of the sale of Defence Estates stock has been used to upgrade the estate in each year since Defence Estates was established; what proportion of the defence estate has been upgraded in each year over that period; when he expects the upgrading of the entire estate to Grade 1 standard to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [295218]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As part of the periodic spending review, the Department agrees disposal targets with HM Treasury and a net departmental budget is set accordingly. There is no direct link between the amount spent on upgrading the estate to the disposal of surplus land and buildings. Exceptionally, the receipts from the disposal of Chelsea Barracks were ring-fenced for investment in service accommodation. Internal budgets are agreed on the basis of Defence priorities.

From 1 April 1998 to 31 March 2009, the Department achieved disposal receipts totalling £3.4 billion. In 2008-09, the Department spent some £3 billion on the estate including investment to upgrade both the technical estate and accommodation.

The following tables illustrate what proportion of Service Family Accommodation (SFA) has been upgraded as well as how much new or improved Single Living Accommodation (SLA) has been delivered since 2001. Figures prior to 2001 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Properties upgraded to highest standard for condition, SFA (GB)

	Number
2001-02	2,700
2002-03	3,870
2003-04	1,440
2004-05	2,610
2005-06	1,705
2006-07	1,215
2007-08	637
2008-09	726
Total	14,903

New or improved bed-spaces delivered, SLA

	Number
2001-02	n/a
2002-03	988
2003-04	2,915
2004-05	5,611
2005-06	5,539
2006-07	5,822
2007-08	6,905
2008-09	7,910
Total	35,690

Most of the 14,000 SFA that we have brought up to Standard 1 for Condition since 2001 have been upgrades of existing properties rather than the construction of new properties. 90 per cent. of SFA is now at the two highest standards for condition. Our aim is to ensure that by March 2013 very little, if any, of the occupied SFA estate should be below Standard 2 for Condition. Subject to changing demand for SFA in the future and the availability of funding, we aspire that by 2020 all occupied properties in the UK will be at Standard 1 for condition.

However, the majority of the 35,000 SLA delivered since 2003 are newly constructed en-suite accommodation. A further 20,000 bed-spaces will be delivered by 2013.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 831W, on armed forces: housing, what the average monthly rent for properties in the Greater London area rented under the substitute single living accommodation scheme is. [298516]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 9 November 2009]*: As at 23 October 2009, the average monthly rent for substitute service single accommodation properties in the Greater London area was £1,121.37. Utility bills are paid by the Ministry of Defence. Service personnel can claim the following allowances to assist with the cost of living in the Greater London Area: Food and Incidental Allowance, Get You Home Travel, Home to Duty Travel and Recruitment and Retention Allowance (London). Service personnel are reimbursed the cost of telephone line installations and monthly line rentals.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned, *(b)* funded and *(c)* undertaken on the mental health needs of service personnel and veterans since 2001; and what his most recent estimate is of the number of service personnel and veterans with such needs. [295087]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD fully supports the need for high quality research which examines the mental health of service personnel and veterans. We have funded the Kings College London Centre for Military Health Research (KCMHR) to undertake major research into the health of those who have served on recent operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Many of their findings have already been published in the peer-reviewed medical literature, including major pieces of work published in 2006. Within KCMHR, the Academic Centre for Defence Mental Health (ACDMH) has been established as an in-house mental health research resource which is looking into a variety of smaller scale aspects of dealing with the mental health of service personnel.

The KCMHR and ACDMH website can be found at the following link:

www.kcl.ac.uk/kcmhr

This contains links to a wide range of individual research papers. The 2006 KCMHR 10-year report provides a particularly useful summary of research during the first 10 years since its foundation in 1996.

More recent research includes a paper on the prevalence of common mental disorders and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in the UK Military (Iversen et al., BMC Psychiatry 2009, 9:68). This concluded that the rate of common mental disorders in the sample was 27.2 per cent.; this figure is in keeping with a substantial review of European adults, carried out in 2005, that also found 27 per cent. suffered with a common mental disorder. This study confirmed previous findings which show that depression and alcohol abuse are the most common mental disorders in the UK military, not post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as previously assumed by some commentators. The paper's results support MOD's provision of a compressive mental health service rather than a service which is overly focussed on treating PTSD.

Research commissioned from other academic institutions includes an investigation by Manchester university into the levels of suicide amongst those leaving the UK armed forces over the period 1996-2005, compared with matched personnel remaining in service and the general population. This work was published in the peer-reviewed journal Public Library of Science (PloS) Medicine in March 2009. The results showed that overall rates of suicide of those who left were little different from the equivalent serving or civilian general populations. We also commissioned research into Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) from Royal Holloway and University College London, comparing immediate and delayed onset PTSD in military veterans. The study looked at clinical course, symptoms, risk factors, stressors and disabling effects. We understand its findings will be published in peer reviewed literature shortly.

Papers currently undergoing peer review or awaiting publication address further the mental health of service personnel and veterans, in both the National Service era and post-National Service. We shall continue to support well-founded research into these issues, to inform our policies to provide care for those whose mental health has been affected by serving in the armed forces.

Armed Forces: North West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people have joined the *(a)* army, *(b)* navy and (c) RAF from (i) the North West, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) Chorley in each year since 1997. [299097]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held in the format requested, however the following table provides details of those recruited through the Armed Forces Careers Offices (AFCO) in Lancashire, to give an indication of armed forces recruitment in this area.

This information will not provide a comprehensive picture of the recruitment of individuals who live in Lancashire as it does not include those Lancashire residents who may have chosen to join through AFCOs elsewhere or through some other means, such as the internet. In addition, RN/RM and Army officer figures are not provided as these officers tend to be recruited through a wider variety of means and any information provided would not be meaningful in this context.

Data for the RN and the RAF for financial years before 2003-04 are not available as new IT systems have since been introduced.

Financial year	*Preston (Tri-Service AFCO)*	*Blackburn (Army AFCO)*	*Blackpool (Army AFCO)*	*Burnley (Army AFCO)*
1997-98				
Army	158	109	136	131
1998-99				
Army	145	96	159	135
1999-2000				
Army	152	101	139	154
2000-01				
Army	117	93	126	94
2001-02				
Army	100	95	99	88
2002-03				
Army	128	114	114	107
2003-04				
RN/RM	89	—	—	—
Army	114	85	94	103
RAF	112	—	—	—
2004-05				
RN/RM	66	—	—	—
Army	83	72	86	88
RAF	70	—	—	—
2005-06				
RN/RM	76	—	—	—
Army	132	122	103	108
RAF	36	—	—	—
2006-07				
RN/RM	86	—	—	—
Army	119	115	107	108
RAF	59	—	—	—
2007-08				
RN/RM	77	—	—	—
Army	140	71	69	103
RAF	82	—	—	—
2008-09				
RN/RM	107	—	—	—
Army	130	70	95	96
RAF	170	—	—	—

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual trained strength is of each (i) service and (ii) rank in the armed forces. [297890]

Bill Rammell: The latest available figures for trained UK regular armed forces requirements and trained UK regular armed forces strengths for each service and rank are provided in the following tables.

Naval service trained UK regular strengths[1] and requirements by NATO rank

NATO rank	*Requirement[2]*	*Trained strength*
OF-7 and above[3]	30	40
OF-6	60	80
OF-5	230	280
OF-4	1,110	1,140
OF-3[4]	2,160	2,190
OF-2	3,000	2,630
OF-1	—	40
Officers total	6,590	6,410
OR-9	740	760
OR-8	880	800
OR-7	3,730	4,000
OR-6	5,090	4,570
OR-4	6,900	6,210
OR-3	—	540
OR-2	11,690	11,050
Other ranks total	29,020	27,930

Army trained UK regular strengths and requirements[1] by NATO rank

NATO rank	*Requirement[5]*	*Trained strength*
OF-7 and above[3]	60	70
OF-6	170	180
OF-5	520	590
OF-4	1,750	1,790
OF-3	4,300	4,860
OF-2	4,930	4,680
OF-1	1,810	1,640
Officers total	13,560	13,800
OR-9	1,380	1,740
OR-8	4,260	4,830
OR-7	5,810	6,050
OR-6	10,320	9,730
OR-4	16,640	14,870
OR-3	17,720	15,760
OR-2	29,470	29,130
Other ranks total	85,600	82,120

RAF trained UK regular strengths and requirements[1] by NATO rank

NATO rank	*Requirement[6]*	*Trained strength*
OF-6 and above[3]	100	130
OF-5	290	330
OF-4	1,130	1,230
OF-3	2,420	2,540
OF-2 and below	4,720	4,260
Officers total	8,670	8,480
OR-9	1,080	1,210
OR-7	3,180	3,180
OR-6	6,610	6,210
OR-4	8,640	8,370
OR-2 and below	12,690	11,930

RAF trained UK regular strengths and requirements[1] by NATO rank

NATO rank	*Requirement[6]*	*Trained strength*
Other ranks total[7]	32,190	30,900

"—" = zero or rounded to zero.

[1] Naval service strength figures include UK regular forces and full-time reserve service personnel filling regular posts. Army strength figures include trained UK regular forces and exclude Gurkhas, full-time reserve service personnel and mobilised reservists. RAF strength figures include UK regular forces and full-time reserve service personnel filling regular posts.

[2] Naval service requirements by rank are the planning liabilities as determined by the naval service. They do not match DASA's published total requirements, which are based on the ceilings set in the DP09 planning round.

[3] No services have personnel at NATO rank OF-[illegible]

[4] The naval service has no personnel at substantive rank OR-3 and no requirement at this rank. Marines with a substantive rank of OR-2 but acting as corporal are recorded as paid rank OR-3, which aligns with the recognised rank of lance corporal in the Army.

[5] Army soldier RAL split by rank has been provided by DM(A).

[6] RAF requirements are as provided by RAF M&PC Mpr Reg. September 2009 liability was calculated by straight-line interpolation between DP08 1 April 2009 liability and DP09 1 April 2010 liability.

[7] The Royal Air Force has no personnel at NATO ranks OR-3 or OR-8.

Notes:

1. Totals may not equal the sum of parts due to rounding. All numbers are rounded to the nearest 10 with numbers ending in 5 rounded to the nearest multiple of 20, to prevent systematic bias.
2. Due to ongoing validation of data from the joint personnel administration system, all strength figures are provisional and subject to review.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual trained strength is of the Territorial Army (i) staff, (ii) Royal Armoured Corps, (iii) Royal Artillery, (iv) Royal Engineers, (v) Royal Signals, (vi) infantry, (vii) Army Air Corps, (viii) Royal Army Chaplains Department, (ix) Royal Logistics Corps, (x) Royal Army Medical Corps, (xi) Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, (xii) Adjutant General's Corps, (xiii) Royal Army Veterinary Corps, (xiv) Small Arms School Corps, (xv) Royal Army Dentistry Corps, (xvi) Intelligence Corps, (xvii) Army Physical Training Corps and (xviii) Queen Alexandra's Royal Auxiliary Nursing Corps. [297894]

Bill Rammell: The strength of the Territorial Army by Arm/Service as at 1 March 2007 is provided in the following table. A more recent breakdown by Arm/Service is not available, but the current overall strength of the TA, as at 1 September 2009, is at 34,380 subject to review. The requirement is only available for the Territorial Army as a whole.

Strength of the Territorial Army by arm/service as at 1 March 2007

Arm/service	*Requirement*	*Total TA*
Total	42,000	36,790
Staff	n/a	90
HCAV/RAC	n/a	1,360
RA	n/a	2,290
RE	n/a	2,530
R SIGNALS	n/a	3,910
Infantry	n/a	7,190
AAC	n/a	120
RAChD	n/a	70
RLC	n/a	6,030
RAMC	n/a	2,510
REME	n/a	2,400
AGC (RMP)	n/a	280
AGC (SPS)	n/a	1,030
AGC (ETS)	n/a	20
AGC (ALS)	n/a	10
RAVC	n/a	10
SASC	n/a	10
RADC	n/a	50
INT CORPS	n/a	520
APTC	n/a	10
General list	n/a	300
QARANC	n/a	960
OTC	n/a	5,070
Unallocated	n/a	*

n/a = Not available.

* = Zero or rounded to zero.

Notes:

1. Total TA include all personnel in Group A and B, Mobilised TA, OTC and NRPS, but excludes FTRS.
2. Non-Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS) include both Group A and B.
3. TA Group B consists mainly of soldiers serving with UOTC units.
4. Figures include personnel capbadged OTC only and therefore exclude personnel from other Arms/Services serving at UOTC units.
5. Figures have been rounded to 10; numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

The information by arm/service is available in the most recent Army Monthly Manning Report and the latest total figures are in the most recent Army Personnel Statistics Report, both of which are available in the Library of the House.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what planned reservist training exercises were cancelled in each year since 2003. [297903]

Bill Rammell: In respect of the Royal Naval Reserves and the Royal Air Force Reserves, there have been no specific training exercises cancelled since 2003.

The following list shows the cancelled training exercises for the Territorial Army since 2007. The Department do not have central records relating to this prior to 2007. Exercises may be cancelled for a variety of reasons including effectiveness of delivery; value for money constraints; international policy dimensions and circumstances; operational constraints; and focus on current operations.

2007-08

Bald Eagle 2007-08
Cossack Steppe (CAC 5—2007-08)
Lion Star 1—2007-08
Romanian Express (CAC 7—2007-08)
Lion Star 2—2007-08
Lion Star 3—2007-08
Lion Star 4—2007-08
Flying Rose 2—2007-08
Flying Rose 2—2008-09[1]
Mulberry Tree/Prickly Pear 2008-09[1]
150 Tpt Regt (V) OBUA Trg
Trg weekend 150 Tpt Regt (V)
Outreach 4—Georgian Express
Tricolour 3—2008-09[1]
Trg Ex—75 Engr Regt (V)

2008-09[1].

Mulberry Tree
Black Warrior
Paperchase

[1] These exercises were cancelled during 2007-08, but were due to take place in 2008-09.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of training exercises have been cancelled in 2009 to date; and what exercises those were. [297937]

Bill Rammell: To date, 9 per cent. of programmed training exercises have been cancelled in 2009. Exercises may be cancelled for a variety of reasons including effectiveness of delivery; value for money; international policy dimensions and circumstances; operational constraints; and focus on current operations.

The following lists the cancelled training exercises:

JTFEX 09
Crimson Eagle 09-1
Snow Falcon 09
Lone Fin 09
Torpedo Focus 09-2
Sheldrake Spear 09
Green Flag West 09-1
TLT NITEX 09-1
TLP 09-2
Spontex 09-1
UAE ATLC 12
Egemen 2009
Lone Eagle 09-1
Baltops 09
TLP 09-3
Maxeval 09
Harding Flame 09-1
LIVEX 09
Roman Cohorts
Batus Run 09-1
Blue Flag 09-1
Maple Flag 42-2
Maple Flag 42-3
Batus Run 09-2
Crown Pinnacle 09-4
Bold Avenger 09
Latin Bull 09
RAF DOT 09
Batus Run 09-5
1 ACC WTI 09
Lion Sun 11
Mulberry Tree
Black Warrior
Cobb Ring
Roman Eagle
Paperchase
Global Maple
Global Kukri.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 569-70, on pre-deployment training, what his definition is of an unacceptable balance of risk. [299119]

Bill Rammell: There is always a balance to be struck in allocating equipment to meet both operational and training needs. When new equipment is introduced into service, the Department's priority is to ensure that sufficient quantities are available for training to enable operators to meet basic qualification standards prior to their deployment. This must be balanced with the requirement to get equipment into theatre as quickly as possible so that troops can benefit from the additional capability.

We recognise that achieving this balance can mean that it takes longer to establish a sufficient pool of equipment fully to meet the training requirement. In such cases, the training pool is managed in a way that ensures operators have as much experience of the equipment as possible before they deploy. If necessary, this training will be supplemented after individuals arrive in theatre. Where troops already in theatre are provided with newly introduced equipment, specialist training teams will deploy to ensure the equipment operators get the training they need.

The quantities of equipment available for pre-deployment training continue to improve. For example the numbers of Jackal and Ridgback vehicles in the training pool increased by 50 per cent. between July and October this year. The number of Mastiff vehicles in the training pool is expected to improve in the next few months.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armoured vehicles of each type in the armed forces are *(a)* fit to be deployed and *(b)* in service in Afghanistan. [297932][1]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I am withholding the information requested on the numbers of vehicles fit for deployment and in service on operations for operational security reasons.

I can however provide figures for armoured vehicles which are fit for purpose. This is defined as vehicles that are capable of being used in whatever capacity they are required for. Fit for purpose figures as at 4 November 2009 are provided in the following table, along with total fleet numbers.

Vehicle	*Total fleet number*	*Number fit for purpose*
AS90	145	132
Challenger 2	345	261
CRAARV	81	70
CVR(T)	1,168	928
FV 430 (Mk2 and Bulldog)	1,400	658
Fuchs	11	11
Saxon	147	147
Titan	33	24
Trojan	33	25
Warrior	793	552
Mastiff	271	134
Panther	401	334
Ridgback	118	73
Snatch 2 (including variants)	653	203
Vector	192	87

1.*[Official Report, 25 November 2009, Vol. 501, c. 13-14MC.]*

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual level of spare part availability is for each (i) armoured vehicle type and (ii) aircraft type in the armed forces (A) overall and (B) in Afghanistan. [297942]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information for armoured vehicles is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on spares availability for rotary-wing aircraft is not held in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The required level of spares for fixed-wing aircraft is included in contractual agreements with industry or is set by the Front Line Command. The achieved level of available spares is measured as part of these agreements.

The following information for the required and achieved level of spares for each fixed-wing aircraft fleet is provided as at September 2009 unless otherwise stated. The level of spares for operational deployments to Afghanistan is not recorded separately unless otherwise stated.

Atomic Weapons Establishment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many outstanding cases of litigation the Atomic Weapons Establishment is involved in. [298200]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There is one outstanding litigated employer's liability claim involving the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE).

In addition there is an ongoing Group Action brought by 1,011 Nuclear Test Veterans against the Ministry of Defence in which AWE has been providing documentation to assist the legal disclosure process.

Atomic Weapons Establishment: Floods

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Lewes of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 301W, what his most recent estimate is of the costs arising from the July 2007 flooding at each Atomic Weapons Establishment site. [298477]

Bill Rammell: Final costs, to the extent that they are not covered by commercial insurance, are still the subject of commercial discussions between the MOD and AWE plc.

Atomic Weapons Establishment: Radioactive Waste

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in the preparation of an integrated waste strategy for the Atomic Weapons Establishment. [298095]

Mr. Quentin Davies: An integrated waste strategy for the Atomic Weapons Establishment was first approved by the board of AWE plc. in March 2007 and updated in April 2008 and May 2009. The regulators (the Environment Agency and the nuclear installations inspectorate) have assessed the strategy as appropriate for use. It is being progressively implemented and is subject to annual review.

AWE Aldermaston

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when construction work on Project Pegasus at AWE Aldermaston is scheduled to commence. [298093]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Subject to the necessary planning permission, construction work on Project Pegasus at AWE Aldermaston is scheduled to commence in the third quarter of 2011.

AWE Burghfield

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether non-UK workers will be allowed to undertake construction work on Project Mensa at AWE Burghfield. [298096]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Nationality will not present an automatic barrier to being allowed to undertake construction work on Project Mensa. All individuals employed on the project will, however, be required to achieve the necessary level of security clearance, on a case-by-case basis, as is the situation for all AWE workers.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what emergency arrangements are in place to provide for the protection of contractors working on Project Mensa at AWE Burghfield in the event of an accident leading to a release of radioactive material. [298097]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Nuclear Site Licence conditions require robust emergency arrangements to be in place at AWE Burghfield to deal with all reasonably foreseeable accidents. Specifically, and in line with other nuclear operators, emergency countermeasures include sheltering and, where appropriate, subsequent evacuation of personnel considered to be at risk from a potential release of radioactive material. These onsite arrangements provide for the protection of all persons present on the establishment, including contractors working within the Project Mensa compound, in the unlikely event of a release of radioactive material.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to hold an exercise to rehearse arrangements for dealing with a radiation release at AWE Burghfield with the potential to affect contractors working in the Project Mensa compound. [298098]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Onsite emergency arrangements at AWE Burghfield are regularly tested in exercises. Where appropriate, these exercises test the arrangements for the protection of all personnel present on the site, including contractors working within the Project Mensa compound. The last such exercise was held in October 2009. The timetable for the next exercise has not yet been agreed.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence under what safety rules construction work on Project Mensa at AWE Burghfield will be conducted. [298101]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Construction work on Project Mensa will be subject to the same safety rules that apply to all construction projects at the Atomic Weapons Establishment. The overarching legislation is the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, which includes, for example, the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007. There is also a comprehensive suite of AWE plc company processes and procedures in place to ensure the safety of operations, including those associated with the construction of new and/or replacement facilities.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Lewes of 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 258W, on AWE Burghfield, how many of the work packages remain uncompleted. [298618]

Mr. Quentin Davies: All the work packages have been completed.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with which providers *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies had a contract to provide postal services in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, (iii) between 1 January 2009 and 1 July 2009 and (iv) since 1 July 2009. [299429]

Bill Rammell: The MOD contracts solely with Royal Mail Group for the provision of mail services through the Forces Mail Settlement.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on overnight accommodation for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials while overseas in each of the last three years. [294686]

Bill Rammell: Information on accommodation costs is not held centrally. The overseas visits by all Ministers list however provides aggregate information on overseas travel expenditure, including the cost of travel and accommodation. This also contains details on the number of officials accompanying them where non-scheduled travel was used. The latest list for the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 was published in July 2009. Details for the 2009-10 financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. All travel is made in accordance with the ministerial code.

Disposal Services Agency

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what contractors have been approved by the Disposal Services Authority to sell surplus British defence equipment; [298192]

(2) what items were sold by the Disposal Services Authority in 2008-09; how much each item was sold for; to whom each item was sold; and who approved each sale. [298193]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The list of DSA's current contractors that sell surplus MOD equipment is provided as follows.

UK contracts

AgustaWestland
Azcom Business Solutions Ltd.
BAe Insyte
Bonhams 1793 Ltd.
Babcock Support Services Ltd.
Cronifer UK Ltd. (now expired, active during 2008-09)
Donelan Trading Ltd. (now expired, active 2008-09)
Field Textiles Ltd.
J. Graham
L. W. Vass Ltd.
Leafield Logistics and Technical Services Ltd.
Liquidity Services Ltd.
MBDA
Metal and Waste Recycling Ltd.
Office Green Ltd.
OSS Group Ltd.
Ramco (UK) Ltd.
Silver Lining Industries Ltd.
Sims Recycling Solutions (UK) Ltd.
Thales Air Defence
Thales (Navy)
Vector Aerospace
Veolia Environmental Service (UK) plc
Witham (Specialist Vehicles) Ltd.

Overseas contracts

Field Textiles (generated overseas)
L. Jackson and Company Ltd. (currently under review by DSA)
Vebeg GMBH
Witham (generated overseas)

DSA's sales range from large capital items such as ships to individual items such as computers. Details of the disposal of all individual surplus items could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The DSA gross total receipts for FY 2008-09 were £89 million.

Approval for each sale is given at the appropriate level commensurate with the value of the asset, in accordance with the MOD approvals process.

Helicopters: Afghanistan

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters are *(a)* required and *(b)* available (i) for training and (ii) to support operations in Afghanistan. [297933]

Bill Rammell: I will not comment on the specific number of helicopters deployed to Afghanistan as our longstanding policy is that to do so would, or would be likely to, provide information prejudicial to the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces.

I will say, however, that we are planning to further increase helicopter capability in Afghanistan over the next 12 months. By January next year, the number of flying hours will have increased by 130 per cent. compared to November 2006 levels.

The requirement for helicopter training is measured in terms of flying hours rather than the number of airframes. All helicopters in the Forward Fleet which are not deployed on operations are available for training, including pre-deployment training. The actual numbers employed on training will therefore fluctuate continuously according to need. There are sufficient helicopters available to ensure that our crews are fully prepared for front line operations. The Forward Fleet are those aircraft available to Front Line Commands and training units.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have received requests to give evidence to the Chilcot Inquiry; and if he will make a statement. [293567]

Bill Rammell: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1210W.

Met Office

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times the Met Office Review Group has met; and if he will make a statement. [298877]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP) Met Office Review Group meets regularly in undertaking the review.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 239W.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* minutes of the meetings of the Met Office Review Group; and if he will make a statement. [298878]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Secretary of State for Defence has no plans to place in the Library the agenda and minutes of the meetings of the Met Office Review Group.

An update on the Met Office review will be provided around the next pre-Budget report.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who the members are of the Met Office Review Group; and if he will make a statement. [298879]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP) Met Office Review Group comprises officials from the Ministry of Defence, Shareholder Executive, HM Treasury and the Met Office.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any Ministers have attended meetings of the Met Office Review Group; and if he will make a statement. [298880]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Ministers have not attended Met Office Review Group meetings, attendance is at official level with regular reports to Ministers.

Military Aircraft

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the level of immediately available combat air power. [299146]

Bill Rammell: I am withholding the information as its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Nuclear Submarines: Decommissioning

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what sites his Department is considering for the submarine dismantling and radioactive waste storage elements of the Submarine Dismantling Project. [297838]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There are currently four regions where there are MOD or defence-related commercial sites that are likely to be considered for Submarine Dismantling Project activities. These regions are Devon, Fife, Argyll and Bute and Berkshire. My hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Armed Forces (Bill Rammell) has written to certain elected representatives, including my hon. Friend, in those regions.

The project is at an early stage in the process to develop an effective public consultation and associated strategic environmental assessment. This work has included identification of existing nuclear sites, both defence and civil, that are technically capable of submarine dismantling or storing the resultant radioactive waste. At this stage, two sites have been identified that could be technically capable of carrying out dismantling activities and 12 sites have been identified that could be technically capable of carrying out waste storage. Technical capability is only one aspect and the wider suitability of sites has not yet been assessed.

Further analysis work is still required and, until the public consultation is complete, no decisions will be taken on sites for either submarine dismantling or waste storage. I am withholding details of the individual sites identified at this time, as the MOD intend to publish this information in the future as part of the planned public consultation and strategic environmental assessment.

Nuclear Weapons

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the terms of reference are of the Nuclear Warhead Sustainment Steering Group; and whether US personnel will participate in the work of the group. [298999]

Bill Rammell: The Nuclear Warhead Sustainment Steering Group (NWSSG) is an internal MOD committee providing oversight and direction of the Nuclear Warhead Capability Sustainment Programme (NWCSP). It meets quarterly and its specific responsibilities are to:

Review progress in delivery of the programme.

Oversight of the management of the programme.

Resolve strategic issues impacting the delivery of the programme.

Agree changes to the NWCSP strategic outputs and associated funding.

Agree options for strategic priorities and strategic risk management.

The committee is attended by representatives of MOD's Strategic Technologies branch, Chemical, Biological, Radiation, Nuclear (CBRN) policy branch, the Deterrent capability branch, and the Strategic Weapons project office.

Independent members from the MOD's scrutiny branch also attend and other representatives are called as necessary. There are no plans for US personnel to participate in the work of this committee.

Nuclear Weapons: Inspections

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the next inspection of the nuclear weapons convoy and associated support establishments is planned to take place. [297801]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Both the nuclear weapons convoy and associated support establishments are subject to regular inspection and assessment. I am withholding the information on the next planned inspection as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice national security.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many activities were assessed in the last inspection of the nuclear weapons convoy and associated support establishments; and how many such activities received *(a)* satisfactory and *(b)* unsatisfactory ratings. [297802]

Bill Rammell: At the last nuclear weapons convoy inspection, 700 separate activities were inspected. Individual activities do not receive ratings. The overall assessment of the inspection was a satisfactory rating and the inspection did not identify any concerns over safety of operations.

Radioactive Materials: Transport

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 484W, on radioactive materials: transport, what the expected in-service date is for the refurbished truck cargo heavy duty trailers. [297786]

Bill Rammell: The refurbished truck cargo heavy duty trailers, on current plans, are to be brought into service by the end of 2010.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the average cost of a round trip made by a truck cargo heavy duty convoy. [297787]

Bill Rammell: The costs of a convoy move are wide-ranging and include, for example, the Atomic Weapons Establishment operations, Ministry of Defence Police and Royal Marine support, the monitoring of the operation, activities at the Royal Naval Armament Depot Coulport and nuclear accident response assets held in readiness during convoy operations.

This information is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of an original truck cargo heavy duty mark 2 vehicle at the time of initial purchase. [297797]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The order for these vehicles was placed in the late 1980s. Officials have requested the relevant files from archive and I will write to the hon. Member once the information has been retrieved.

Reservists

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many reservists are serving overseas. [297888]

Bill Rammell: There are over 1,500 volunteer or regular reservists serving on or in support of operations overseas. There are also some 2,300 full-time reserve service (FTRS) individuals serving in the regular forces, many of whom will be serving on or have just returned from operations. In both cases, once called up, these personnel are not tracked as separate groups in terms of whether they are located overseas or in the UK.

Royal Gibraltar Regiment

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration has been given to allowing members of the Gibraltar Regiment to volunteer for front-line duties with UK forces in Operation Herrick. [295245]

Bill Rammell: The primary role of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment is to support the defence and security of Gibraltar. Deployments in support of other tasks have been undertaken by individual volunteers; 15 personnel from the Royal Gibraltar Regiment have deployed on operations in Afghanistan between August 2004 and February 2009. Since then there has been a temporary suspension in volunteers being deployed while we investigated a potential issue with compensation arrangements covering such deployments. The Royal Gibraltar Regiment are entitled to compensation benefits under their own terms and conditions of service including when deployed to Afghanistan. Work has commenced to bring these compensation arrangements in line with the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme through legislation. The temporary suspension has now been lifted.

SAR Chivenor

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the reasons are for the proposed reduction of service at SAR Chivenor from 24 hour to 12 hours; and when the proposed changes will take place. [298102]

Bill Rammell: The improved capability of the new Search and Rescue (SAR) helicopter will allow us to continue to provide effective coverage for all night-time incidents using only nine of the 12 SAR bases. The aim is to roll out the new service by taking over sites incrementally, starting with those operated by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in 2012. The day-time-only service at RMB Chivenor will start some time after 2012.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the implications are of the proposed reductions to 12-hour service at SAR Chivenor and SAR Portland for the service provided by SAR Culdrose in terms of *(a)* area coverage and *(b)* response times. [298103]

Bill Rammell: The decision to deliver the future helicopter search and rescue (SAR-H) service from nine full-time and three part-time (12-hour, daytime only) bases continues to ensure our ability to reach all "very high", "high" and 75 per cent. of "medium" risk areas within one hour of take off. This decision has no day-time impact on the expected SAR-H demands on RNAS Culdrose. RNAS Culdrose is likely to be the first alternative responder to night-time incidents for one "medium" risk area that RMB Chivenor currently provides lead cover for RAF Valley and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency site at Lee on Solent will provide cover for other areas. Cover to this area will remain within the required one hour response time.

Somalia: Peacekeeping Operations

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces have been deployed in mainland Somalia in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [297359]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* No members of the armed forces have operationally deployed to Somalia over the past two years. However, the following numbers of Regular Armed Forces personnel have visited Somalia in the course of their duties:

> In 2008 one individual visited the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in Mogadishu, and five personnel visited Somaliland to consider ways to improve security for international community visiting that region.
>
> In 2009 two individuals have visited Mogadishu. The first to visit AMISOM as before; the second has visited in the course of his duties as secondee to the United Nations Political Office for Somalia based in Nairobi.
>
> This year in total 11 personnel visited Somaliland on three different occasions to scope possible assistance to Somaliland authorities.

Territorial Army: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* regular and *(b)* Territorial Army (i) officers and (ii) personnel of other ranks have been mobilised for service overseas within six months of completing their basic training in each of the last three years. [297896]

Bill Rammell: This information is not held in the format requested.

Territorial Army: Training

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* nurses, *(b)* paramedics, *(c)* mechanics and *(d)* other skilled personnel have been trained through the Territorial Army in each of the last five years. [295483]

Bill Rammell: The Territorial Army (TA) trains a broad range of specialists. Many specialists, including medical specialists, are recruited into the TA with relevant civilian qualifications and are provided with the necessary military training to be able to employ their skills in a military environment. Other specialists receive more comprehensive trade training. There is no single classification of "mechanics" in the TA. The number of vehicle mechanics trained in the last five complete years is as follows:

TA trained as vehicle mechanics

	Number
2004-05	64
2005-06	64
2006-07	64
2007-08	35
2008-09	66

USA: Nuclear Weapons

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what sub-committee meetings (SUBWOG) of all Joint Working Groups (JOWOG) have been held under the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement between the US and the UK in the last 12 months. [298201]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1149W. I am withholding the information on the nature or extent of work undertaken by sub-committees to the Joint Working Groups, as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice national security.

Volunteer Reserve Force

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on each volunteer reserve force in each year since 1997. [297946]

Bill Rammell: The Strategic Review of Reserves, published in April 2009, contains a cost analysis of the reserve forces, a copy of which was placed in the Library of the House on the 29 April 2009.

Cost estimates in this area are complicated by the fact that expenditure on Reserve Forces and Regular Forces overlap in the areas of training, equipment and estates. More work is under way to refine the Department's understanding of the fixed and variable costs of Reserves.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* inflow and *(b)* outflow for each volunteer reserve service was in each month of 2009. [297898]

Bill Rammell: The following table shows the inflow and outflow number for the Royal Auxiliary Air Force and Royal Naval Reserve. The Royal Marines Reserve and the Army Reserve inflow and outflow figures are not held centrally.

	Inflow		*Outflow*	
Month	*Royal Naval Reserve*	*Royal Auxiliary Air Force*	*Royal Naval Reserve*	*Royal Auxiliary Air Force*
January	24	37	31	25
February	15	83	31	30
March	15	25	25	28

Month	*Inflow*		*Outflow*	
	Royal Naval Reserve	*Royal Auxiliary Air Force*	*Royal Naval Reserve*	*Royal Auxiliary Air Force*
April	30	39	25	30
May	13	62	16	30
June	27	66	21	28
July	36	28	25	26
August	19	39	16	39
September	20	20	21	25

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Health Education

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has for the promotion of safe and responsible drinking in the period to Christmas and the New Year. [297815]

Gillian Merron: The Department's 'Know Your Limits' campaign, launched in May 2008, aims to improve public awareness of alcohol units, lower-risk alcohol consumption guidelines and of the links between alcohol consumption and health. The Department is currently reassessing its communications strategy around alcohol, with the aim of launching further activity early in 2010.

Throughout November, the Department is working in partnership with gyms and leisure centres to encourage gym members to monitor their alcohol consumption and to cut down. In the run up to Christmas and new year, there will also be information in newspapers and magazines focusing on the relationship between units and drinking at home over Christmas.

A helpline and interactive web-based support and advice are also available nationally on an ongoing basis.

Barnet Primary Care Trust: Dental Services

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the unused capacity for NHS dental services in Barnet Primary Care Trust. [298697]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

Cancer: Drugs

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which cancer drugs the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has *(a)* recommended and *(b)* not recommended for NHS use since 1 November 2008; how long the appraisal of each took; and whether the pharmaceutical company supplying each such drug offered to make it available on a risk-sharing basis. [297715]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is shown in the table. For each of the appraisals, the table shows whether one or more Patient Access Schemes agreed between the Department and the manufacturer have been considered by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

Topic	*Start of NICE appraisal*[1]	*Date of final NICE guidance*	*Recommendation*	*Patient access scheme considered by NICE*
Hycamtin (topotecan) for cervical cancer (recurrent)	December 2008	October 2009	Partial recommendation	No
Sutent (sunitinib) for Gastrointestinal stromal tumours	August 2008	September 2009	Partial recommendation	Yes
Alimta (pemetrexed) for the first-line treatment of non-small-cell lung cancer	October 2008	September 2009	Partial recommendation	No
Erbitux (cetuximab) for Colo-rectal cancer (first line)	January 2008	August 2009	Partial recommendation	Yes
Avastin (bevacizumab) (first line), Nexavar (sorafenib) (first line and second line), Sutent (sunitinib) (second-line) and Torisel (temsirolimus) (first-line) for the treatment of advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma	September 2007[2]	August 2009	Not recommended	Nexavar (sorafenib)—yes Avastin (bevacizumab)—yes Sutent (sunitinib)—yes
MabThera (rituximab) for first-line treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia	September 2008	July 2009	Partial recommendation	No
Erbitux (cetuximab) for Head and Neck Cancer (squamous cell carcinoma)	September 2008	June 2009	Not recommended	No
Revlimid (lenalidomide) for Multiple Myeloma	April 2008	June 2009	Partial recommendation	Yes
Sutent (sunitinib) for the first-line treatment of advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma	September 2007[2]	March 2009	Partial recommendation	Yes

Topic	*Start of NICE appraisal*[1]	*Date of final NICE guidance*	*Recommendation*	*Patient access scheme considered by NICE*
Tarceva (erlotinib) for the treatment of non-small-cell lung cancer	March 2006	November 2008	Partial recommendation	Yes

[1] The date NICE commenced work on the appraisal. NICE will also have carried out scoping work for the appraisal before this date.
[2] This is the date on which the Multiple Technology Appraisal (MTA) began for Avastin (bevacizumab) (first-line), Nexavar (sorafenib) (first-line and second-line), Sutent (sunitinib) (first and second-line) and Torisel (temsirolimus) (first-line) for the treatment of advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma. The MTA was subsequently split and Sutent (sunitinib) for the first-line treatment of renal cell carcinoma was considered in a separate Single Technology Appraisal.

Colorectal Cancer: Screening

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many invitations to participate in the national bowel cancer screening programme have been issued; how many persons have referred themselves to the programme; how many test kits have been *(a)* sent out and *(b)* returned; how many people have attended for a colonoscopy; how many polyps have been removed; and how many cancers have been diagnosed in respect of (i) men and (ii) women (A) in each primary care trust, (B) in each screening centre and (C) at each regional programme hub. [298166]

Ann Keen: As at 26 October there were 4,806,090 invitations sent. 59,975 people aged over 69 referred themselves to the programme. 4,598,720 test kits were sent out and 2,665,954 were returned. 37,299 people attended for a colonoscopy and 17,027 patients had polyps removed. Information on cancers found by screening centre and regional hub is provided in the following table.

Information on number of cancers by gender and by primary care trust is not routinely reported. We will provide the data as soon as these become available, and place a copy in the Library.

Information on cancers found by screening centre and regional hub as at 26 October

Programme hub	*Screening centre*	*Cancers found*
Midlands and North West	Bolton	103
Midlands and North West	Cheshire	102
Midlands and North West	Cheshire and Merseyside	79
Midlands and North West	Coventry and Warwickshire	100
Midlands and North West	Cumbria and Westmorland	127
Midlands and North West	Heart of England	86
Midlands and North West	Hereford and Worcestershire	0
Midlands and North West	Lancashire	57
Midlands and North West	Merseyside/North Cheshire	187
Midlands and North West	North Staffordshire	31
Midlands and North West	Norwich	31
Midlands and North West	Pennine	63
Midlands and North West	Sandwell and West Birmingham	52
Midlands and North West	Shropshire	0
Midlands and North West	Wolverhampton	194
		1,212
Southern	Bath, Swindon, Wiltshire	17
Southern	Berkshire	57
Southern	Bristol and Weston	39
Southern	Buckinghamshire	0
Southern	Cornwall	0
Southern	Dorset	76
Southern	East Kent	24
Southern	Gloucestershire	91
Southern	Hampshire	20
Southern	Solent and West Sussex	163
Southern	Somerset	70
Southern	South Devon	127
Southern	Surrey	66
Southern	Sussex	8
Southern	West Kent and Medway	5
		763
London	North East London	85
London	South East London	55
London	St. Georges	128
London	St. Marks	90
London	University College London	72
London	West London	46
		476
North East	Bradford and Airedale	38
North East	Calderdale Kirklees and Wakefield	12
North East	County Durham and Darlington	15
North East	Harrogate Leeds and York	3
North East	Hull	122
North East	North of Tyne	76
North East	South of Tyne	105
North East	South Yorkshire	138
North East	Tees	158
		668
Eastern	Bedford	20
Eastern	Cambridge	71
Eastern	Derbyshire	146
Eastern	East and North Hertfordshire	46
Eastern	Leicestershire, Northampton and Rutland	124
Eastern	North Essex	29
Eastern	Norwich	234
Eastern	Nottinghamshire	82
Eastern	Peterborough and Huntingdon	1
Eastern	South Essex	32
Eastern	South Yorkshire	19
Eastern	West Hertfordshire	45
		849
Total		3,968

Contraceptives

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 309W, on contraceptives, for what reasons the best practice guidance on reproductive healthcare has not been issued; what plans he has to issue such guidance on reproductive healthcare; and if he will make a statement. [299058]

Gillian Merron: Following consultation with stakeholders, the best practice guidance on reproductive health care has been integrated into a sexual health commissioning framework which will be published later this year. This includes guidance to support commissioners in commissioning high quality services for contraception, including long acting reversible contraception methods, and abortion, in line with the vision set out in the NHS Next Stage Review.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated average annual spend on community contraceptive services was for women *(a)* aged under 20 and *(b)* aged 20 years and over in each primary care trust area in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [299060]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held centrally.

Dental Services: Wirral

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the availability of NHS dentistry services in Wirral; [297953]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that there is sufficient NHS dentistry provision in Wirral. [297954]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of patients seen by a national health service dentist in the previous 24 months in England, as at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 30 June 2009 is available in Table E1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2008-09" report. Information is available at primary care trust, strategic health authority and England levels.

This report, published on 19 August 2009, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the website of the Information Centre for health and social care at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809

The NHS has committed itself to ensuring that, by March 2011, all those who actively seek NHS dental care can access it. We have put in place the Dental Access Programme to support the NHS in achieving this commitment.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many first-class flights were taken by each Minister in his Department in 2008-09; and what the *(a)* origin, *(b)* destination and *(c)* cost was of each such flight. [298751]

Phil Hope: None. According to our records, each Minister travelling by air was booked business or economy class tickets.

Travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Doctors: Working Hours

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects Sir Christopher Edwards' review of the effect of the European working time directive on junior doctor training to begin. [297974]

Ann Keen: The Medical Education England (MEE) review will be led by Professor Sir John Temple who is due to begin work shortly.

Sir Christopher Edwards and the MME programme Board discussed at a board meeting on the 4 November the process, protocols and exact timings of the review that are now subject to final confirmation.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of doctors in training had worked for 48 hours or fewer in each week of the 12 months prior to August 2009. [298298]

Ann Keen: NHS Employers monitor the hours of junior doctors as part of the new deal pay monitoring agreement. The last available data are for September 2008 at which time two thirds of doctors in training (over 70 per cent.) were compliant with the European working time directive.

Drugs: Misuse

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* under 16 and *(b)* between 16 and 18 years were admitted to hospital with a primary or secondary diagnosis of poisoning by drugs in each of the last five years. [298489]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is in the following table. The system of diagnostic codes used to classify admission to hospital does not distinguish between recreational, illicit misuse or medical use of drugs.

These data include admissions in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

	Age grouping	
	15 years and under	*16-18 years*
2008-09	11,166	10,054
2007-08	12,159	10,405
2006-07	12,121	9,404
2005-06	12,567	9,138
2004-05	11,537	7,652

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

The ICD-10 code categories for poisoning (either self-inflicted or accidental), are as follows and include overdose of these substances:

T36—Poisoning by systemic antibiotics

T37—Poisoning by other systemic anti-infectives and antiparasitics

T38—Poisoning by hormones and their synthetic substitutes and antagonists, not elsewhere classified

T39—Poisoning by nonopioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics

T40—Poisoning by narcotics and psychodysleptics (hallucinogens)

T41—Poisoning by anaesthetics and therapeutic gases

T42—Poisoning by antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and antiparkinsonism drugs

T43—Poisoning by psychotropic drugs, not elsewhere classified

T44—Poisoning by drugs primarily affecting the autonomic nervous system

T45—Poisoning by primarily systemic and haematological agents, not elsewhere classified

T46—Poisoning by agents primarily affecting the cardiovascular system

T47—Poisoning by agents primarily affecting the gastrointestinal system

T48—Poisoning by agents primarily acting on smooth and skeletal muscles and the respiratory system

T49Poisoning by topical agents primarily affecting skin and mucous membrane and by ophthalmological, otorhinolaryngological and dental drugs

T50—Poisoning by diuretics and other and unspecified drugs, medicaments and biological substances

Drugs: Rehabilitation

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people entering treatment with the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse left treatment free of their drug dependency *(a)* with no drug use and *(b)* with occasional drug use in each year since such information started to be counted within the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System. [298487]

Gillian Merron: The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse does not provide drug treatment but assures the delivery of local drug treatment services and collects data about treatment via the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System.

The information requested can be found in the following table.

Trends in treatment exit reasons (clients aged 18 or over)

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Completed free of dependency (no drug use)	3,953	4,862	6,347	8,980
Completed free of dependency	7,255	8,855	11,927	15,676
Total completed free of dependency	11,208	13,717	18,274	24,656

Statistics for 2008-09 were collected using a new methodology. The data for previous years presented above have been modified to fit the new methodology and excludes under 18-year olds to enable comparisons to be made.

"No drug use" means that in the opinion of the treating clinician, the client is not only free of dependency but is not using any other illicit drugs at all on exiting treatment. Others successfully completing treatment may acknowledge occasional use of other illicit drugs which are judged by the clinician not to require treating.

For figures under the previous methodology, including under 18-year olds, for the years 2004-05 to 2007-08 I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 974W.

Separate figures for young people accessing substance misuse services in 2008-09 will be published later in the year.

Exercise

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the planned budget is for delivery of the new physical activity care pathway Let's Get Moving. [297800]

Gillian Merron: So far the Department has spent approximately £500,000 in the development of the Let's Get Moving tools including the commissioning guidance on physical activity care pathway - Let's Get Moving. We are planning delivery and roll out activities over the coming months.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what areas the second year of the pilot of the Fit for the Future scheme will take place. [297822]

Gillian Merron: As set out in "Be Active, Be Healthy - A plan for getting the nation moving" the Fit for the Future pilot which commenced in April 2009 is running for 12 months in targeted areas in five local authorities (Suffolk, Manchester, Torbay, Bristol and Newcastle). A copy of the plan has already been placed in the Library.

Any future funding and delivery arrangements for Fit for the Future will be subject to the outcome of the monitoring and evaluation that has been put in place. A final report on the programme is due in June 2010.

Food

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many impact assessments conducted by the Food Standards Agency as part of its written consultations included rural-proofing analyses *(a)* before and *(b)* after 19 May 2009. [297997]

Gillian Merron: A rural proofing analysis has been included in six of the Food Standards Agency's consultation stage impact assessments for England published before 19 May 2009, and two after 19 May 2009.

Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* objectives and *(b)* terms of reference are of the programme of consumer engagement on genetic modification which he has asked the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to undertake; and what budget has been allocated for the project by (i) his Department and (ii) the FSA. [298195]

Gillian Merron: This work, which will explore public awareness, knowledge and attitudes about genetically modified foods, is at the initial stages of development, and a budget has still to be finalised. It will be funded by the Food Standards Agency and other Departments with an interest, with co-funding from Sciencewise. The programme will be overseen by an independent steering group that will agree terms of reference when it meets for the first time on 25 and 26 November 2009.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which research projects have been funded by *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council on the safety of genetically modified food in the last 10 years. [298280]

Gillian Merron: Since April 2000, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) has commissioned work under three research programmes relevant to the safety of genetically modified (GM) foods. Prior to April 2000, food safety research was the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF). Details of the individual projects commissioned by MAFF and the FSA are available on the research pages of the Food Standards Agency's website at:

www.food.gov.uk/science/research/researchinfo/foodcomponentsresearch/novelfoodsresearch/

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council has not funded any research during the last 10 years specifically on the safety of genetically modified food, but it has funded one project to analyse gene transfer from food plants to human intestinal microflora and intestinal epithelium.

Haemophilia

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 900W, on haemophilia, to which viruses haemophiliacs have been exposed through infected blood products in the last 10 years; how many cases of each *(a)* viral infection and *(b)* combination of viral infections have been reported to his Department; and what estimate he has made of the number of such cases unreported in the last 10 years. [296895]

Gillian Merron: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's (MHRA's) Yellow Card reporting system is used by health care professionals and patients to voluntarily report suspected adverse reactions to medicines. Those reported reactions involving fractionated blood products, which may be related to quality issues are recorded on the MHRA's Defects database.

MHRA officials have searched this database for cases of viral infection resulting from contamination of fractionated blood products over the past 10 years. There are no confirmed reports of viral transmission through contaminated blood products on the database for this period.

Blood products manufactured from fractionated pools of donated plasma, such as clotting factors, are highly regulated in accordance with the European Community code for medicinal products as defined in Directive 2001/83/EC as amended. This means that the possibility of virus transmission through blood products is likely now to be rare, but it is not possible to completely eliminate infection risk. One case of variant Cretzfeldt-Jakob disease infection in a haemophilia patient was reported in February 2009. The origin of this non-viral infection is uncertain, but it is likely to have been via blood products during the 1990s.

Health Education

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures his Department used to take account of scientific evidence in taking decisions on which health promotion campaigns to undertake or commission in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09. [297864]

Gillian Merron: The Department takes scientific evidence into account when making policy decisions including undertaking or commissioning health promotion campaigns. For example, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence have produced guidance that can be used as the basis for planning, delivering and evaluating public health activities aimed at changing health-related behaviours. The guidance is for national health service and non-NHS professionals and others including national policy makers in health and related sectors.

Health Education: Expenditure

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on *(a)* consultants, *(b)* advertising, *(c)* publishing, *(d)* public relations, *(e)* professional training and *(f)* other activities for each health promotion campaign (i) run by the Department and (ii) commissioned from other organisations, in (A) 2005-06, (B) 2006-07, (C) 2007-08 and (D) 2008-09; and which organisation ran each campaign which was not run by the Department. [297861]

Phil Hope: The following table shows the Department's advertising expenditure over the last four completed financial years.

Department of Health advertising spend in 2005-06 to 2008-09[1]

				£ million
Campaign	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Alcohol (from 2006-07 departmental contribution to campaign run jointly with Home Office)	0.00	0.56	0.61	4.77
Antibiotics	0.38	0.00	0.39	1.15
Change4Life	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.69
Drugs (departmental contribution to campaign run jointly with Home Office)	0.18	1.34	0.67	1.45
Flu (Immunisation)	1.83	1.11	0.98	1.42
Hepatitis C	0.00	0.52	1.34	1.30
HPV Vaccination	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.80
Immunisation	0.00	1.66	0.00	0.32
National health service including nurse recruitment	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00
NHS Injury Benefits Scheme	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.00
NHS Choices	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.55
Patient Choice	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.53
Respiratory and Hand Hygiene	0.00	0.00	0.32	1.53
Sexual health/teenage pregnancy	0.00	2.88	3.11	2.83
Social care/worker recruitment	2.42	2.31	2.22	2.03
Smoking—Tobacco Control	20.80	13.17	10.79	23.38

Department of Health advertising spend in 2005-06 to 2008-09[1]

Campaign	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*£ million* *2008-09*
Stroke	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.52
Tobacco Legislation	0.00	0.32	5.38	0.00
Winter (get the right treatment/ask about medicines day)	0.59	0.00	0.00	0.00
5 a Day	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.00
E111/EHIC	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.16
DH outdoor campaign	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	27.47	23.92	26.24	56.43

[1] Advertising spend is defined as covering only media spend (inclusive of agency commissions but excluding production costs, COI commission and VAT). All figures exclude advertising rebates and audit adjustments and therefore may differ from COI official turnover figures. All figures are rounded to the nearest £10,000. These figures do not include departmental recruitment/classified advertising costs and ad hoc spend under £10,000. These figures may include occasional minor spend through COI by NHS organisations, to supplement national campaigns in their area. While this expenditure has been excluded as far as possible so that this chart reflects central departmental spend, it would incur disproportionate cost to validate that every item of NHS expenditure has been removed.

The following table shows the Department's expenditure on publishing over the last four completed financial years.

	£
2005-06	7,541,114.58
2006-07	6,844,186.98
2007-08	4,544,623.78
2008-09	6,387,399.42

The Department commissions public relations companies through two routes:

The Department's own public relations (PR) framework established in compliance with European Union procurement directives. The framework agreement does not guarantee any work to suppliers. Some of the companies on the framework have not had any contracts with the Department during the past five years; others may have had several contracts across different campaigns.

The Central Office of Information (COI) PR framework established in compliance with EU procurement directives.

The following table shows the Department's expenditure over the last four completed financial years on public relations consultancies.

Department expenditure on public relations consultancies 2005-09

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	£ *2008-09*
Direct expenditure from the Department				
Excluding VAT	5,080,773	5,017,342	6,438,491	5,397,391
Expenditure through Central Office of Information				
Excluding VAT	71,756	65,580	25,582	4,200,876

Notes:

1. The above expenditure includes additional expenditure made directly by NHS Connecting for Health (part of the Department of Health), but excludes any expenditure by Arms Length Bodies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies.
2. Expenditure through COI PR services includes work carried out by COI's regional PR team and PR agencies on the COI roster.
3. The above expenditure includes both fees and costs i.e. fees and expenses to cover time worked by agency staff and costs incurred during the work. Costs may include items such as: design, printing, venue hire, photography, travel and postage. However, it is not possible to extract a more detailed breakdown from Department of Health's financial reporting system.

The following table shows expenditure on health promotion campaigns commissioned from other organisations by the Department over the last four completed financial years. These figures represent communications activities but are not split into the individual categories as per departmental expenditure, as these records are not held centrally by the Department and to identify them would be to incur disproportionate cost.

	Campaign	£
2005-06	British Heart Foundation	[1]4,000,000
	Terence Higgins Trust	1,200,000
	African HIV Policy Network	440,000
2006-07	Cancer Research UK	[1]3,000,000
	Terence Higgins Trust	1,700,000
	African HIV Policy Network	760,000
2007-08	Terence Higgins Trust	1,700,000
	African HIV Policy Network	600,000
2008-09	To consortium of British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK and Diabetes UK	500,000
	Terence Higgins Trust	1,700,000
	African HIV Policy Network	600,000
	Netmums	55,000
	ContinYou	25,000

[1] Under section 64.

Records for consultants, professional training and other activities are not held centrally and would incur disproportionate cost to identify.

Health Services: Hertfordshire

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS *(a)* health visitors, *(b)* nursery nurses, *(c)* support workers and *(d)* midwives there were working in Hertfordshire in each year since 2006. [296816]

Ann Keen: The information requested is shown in the following table.

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff and support to doctors and nursing staff in each specified organisation and each specified level as at 30 September each year

	2006	*2007*	*Headcount* *2008*
East and North Hertfordshire primary care trust (PCT)			
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	620	548	569
of which:			
Registered midwife	0	0	0
Health visitor	122	103	107
Support to doctors and nursing staff	359	311	295
of which:			

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff and support to doctors and nursing staff in each specified organisation and each specified level as at 30 September each year

			Headcount
	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Nursery nurse	37	43	44
Support worker	35	37	15
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust			
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	2,069	1,971	2,133
of which:			
Registered midwife	204	224	226
Health visitor	9	9	7
Support to doctors and nursing staff	1,090	988	1,013
of which:			
Nursery nurse	1	1	0
Support worker	84	83	84
West Hertfordshire PCT			
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	566	642	636
of which:			
Registered midwife	0	0	0
Health visitor	108	125	112
Support to doctors and nursing staff	428	510	582
of which:			
Nursery nurse	3	10	14
Support worker	3	104	44
West Hertfordshire NHS Trust			
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,474	1,370	1,372
of which:			
Registered midwife	177	176	184
Health visitor	0	0	0
Support to doctors and nursing staff	945	867	878
of which:			
Nursery nurse	4	2	3
Support worker	23	25	24

Note:

Midwives are generally not employed by PCTs. In 2008 only 1.8 per cent. of midwives in England were employed by PCTs.

Heart Disease

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people aged *(a)* 18 years and over, *(b)* 60 years and over and *(c)* 85 years and over who were diagnosed with a heart condition in (i) England and (ii) Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority in each year since 1997. [298142]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected routinely. Data are collected on the prevalence of heart disease through the Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF) for all ages (but it is not broken down into 18 years and older, 60 years and older and 85 years old and over).

The number of cases (and percentage prevalence) is reported as follows through QOF for England and Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Health Authority (SHA). The data are only available from 2004.

Quality and Outcomes Framework, heart disease prevalent cases and percentage prevalence

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Coronary heart disease					
Prevalent cases (all ages)					
England	1,893,184	1,900,640	1,898,565	1,892,432	1,886,406
Yorkshire and Humber SHA	227,425	228,219	226,976	225,862	224,326
Percentage Prevalence (all ages)					
England	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5
Yorkshire and Humber SHA	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.1
Heart Failure					
Prevalent cases (all ages)					
England	—	—	419,856	406,668	397,040
Yorkshire and Humber SHA	—	—	44,909	43,382	42,404
Percentage Prevalence (all ages)					
England	—	—	0.8	0.8	0.7
Yorkshire and Humber SHA	—	—	0.8	0.8	0.8
Atrial Fibrillation					
Prevalent cases (all ages)					
England	—	—	692,054	701,157	732,508
Yorkshire and Humber SHA	—	—	71,749	73,006	76,067
Percentage Prevalence (all ages)					
England	—	—	1.3	1.3	1.3
Yorkshire and Humber SHA	—	—	1.3	1.4	1.4
Left Ventricular Dysfunction (heart failure due to LVD)					
Prevalent cases (all ages)					
England	230,821	232,524	—	—	210,557
Yorkshire and Humber SHA	26,973	27,290	—	—	21,905
Percentage Prevalence (all ages)					
England	0.4	0.4	—	—	0.4
Yorkshire and Humber SHA	0.5	0.5	—	—	0.4

Hospitals

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished consultant episodes each NHS Trust in England undertook under hospital resource group *(a)* N12 antenatal admissions not related to delivery event, *(b)* N03 neonates with one minor diagnosis, *(c)* F06 diagnostic procedures oesophagus and stomach, *(d)* F35 larger intestine endoscopic or intermediate procedures, *(e)* N07 normal delivery without complications, *(f)* C58 intermediate mouth or throat procedures, *(g)* B13 phakoemulsification cataract extraction and insertion of lens, *(h)* L21 bladder minor endoscopic procedure without complications and *(i)* J37 minor skin procedures-category 1 without complications in 2008-09. [298976]

Ann Keen: The information has been placed in the Library.

Hospitals: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps his Department has taken to increase the protection of hospital staff from attack. [298808]

Ann Keen: Each national health service body has a duty to address the risks to staff and ensure their safety. The NHS Security Management Service (NHS SMS) can assist employers through guidance on assessing risks and acting to protect staff from attacks and, where incidents do occur, on taking action against offenders.

A new offence of causing nuisance or disturbance on hospital premises and a power to remove someone suspected of committing this offence were supported by the Department in the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008. The purpose of these measures is to remove those whose actions may escalate into violence and whose behaviour diverts staff from delivering care. Consultation on guidance on the use of the powers took place between May and August and commencement of these provisions is due later this year. The NHS SMS will provide free training for NHS staff who will use the power of removal.

Mentally Ill: Children

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of anti-psychotic drug prescriptions for children under 16 years old was in each of the last three years. [298490]

Ann Keen: This information is not available. Data collected on prescriptions for children is insufficient to produce meaningful estimates for particular types of prescribing such as anti-psychotic drugs.

Mesothelioma

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have required treatment for mesothelioma in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [298091]

Ann Keen: The information on number of people who required treatment for mesothelioma is not held centrally. Requested information on count of finished consultant episodes, where the primary diagnosis was mesothelioma is provided in the following table for England, South Tyneside Primary Care Trust (PCT) and the relevant strategic health authorities (SHAs). It should be noted that Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA and County Durham and Tees Valley SHA combined to form the North East SHA in 2006-07. This information is not centrally held for the United Kingdom.

Count of finished consultant episodes where the primary diagnosis was Mesothelioma[1] for selected organisations national health service hospitals, England and activity performed in the Independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS 1997-98 to 2008-09

	England	*North East Strategic Health Authority*	*South Tyneside PCT as PCT of residence*
2008-09	7,349	708	104
2007-08	6,968	735	77
2006-07	6,677	735	69

	England	*Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA as SHA of residence*	*County Durham and Tees Valley SHA as SHA of residence*	*South Tyneside PCT as PCT of residence*
2005-06	6,436	316	303	40
2004-05	5,671	348	242	28
2003-04	5,697	443	230	56
2002-03	4,685	267	173	53
2001-02	4,663	321	129	59
2000-01	4,442	315	122	57
1999-2000	4,155	401	121	58
1998-99	3,773	373	98	39
1997-98	3,075	186	69	11

Notes:

1. Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)—An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. It should be noted that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
2. Diagnosis (Primary Diagnosis)—The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) dataset and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital. [1]The ICD-10 codes used in this analysis were as follows:
C45 Mesothelioma;
D19 Benign neoplasm of mesothelial tissue
3. Assessing growth through time—HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
4. PCT and SHA Data Quality—PCT and SHA data were added to historic data-years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of Treatment and SHA of Treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of general practitioner (GP) practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.
5. Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA and County Durham and Tees Valley SHA combined to form the North East SHA in 2006-07.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

Methadone

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been admitted to hospital with a primary or secondary diagnosis of methadone overdose in each of the last five years; and how many of those died following admission. [298488]

Gillian Merron: The information requested can be found in the following table.

These data include admissions in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Year[6]	*Finished admission episodes*[1]	*Discharge episodes*[2]	*Died in hospital*[3]
2008-09	933	877	12
2007-08	866	810	9
2006-07	715	665	7
2005-06	643	595	4
2004-05	561	526	7

[1] *Finished admission episodes:*
A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

[2] *Discharges:*
A discharge episode is the last episode during a hospital stay (a spell), where the patient is discharged from the hospital (this includes transfer to another hospital). Discharge episodes have been included as it is here that 'died in hospital' events are recorded. For a small proportion of hospital stays the diagnosis on admission may not be present on the discharge episode hence the difference in counts between admission and discharge episodes.

[3] *Deaths:*
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data cannot be used to determine the cause of death of a patient while in hospital. Deaths recorded on the HES database may be analysed by the main diagnosis for which the patient was being treated during their stay in hospital, which may not necessarily be the underlying cause of death. For example, a patient admitted for a hernia operation (with a primary diagnosis of hernia) may die from an unrelated heart attack. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) collects information on the cause of death, wherever it occurs, based on the death certificate and should be the source of data for analyses on cause of death.

[4] *Primary Diagnosis:*
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

[5] *Secondary Diagnosis:*
As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 19 (13 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.

[6] *Assessing growth through time:*
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Data quality:
HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

NHS: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on *(a)* the number of clinicians suspended from their posts and *(b)* the cost to trusts of such suspensions. [297860]

Ann Keen: There were 154 active suspensions and exclusions at the end of 2008-09. The end-of-year numbers fluctuate without a clear upward or downward trend. It is not possible to estimate the current cost of such suspensions. In 2003, the National Audit Office (NAO) estimated that hospital and community doctor exclusions cost an average of £188,000, over an average period of 47 weeks. The NAO's hospital and community weekly cost estimate was therefore £4,000 at 2001-02 prices. This was a one-off survey involving analysis of 206 doctor exclusions in the hospital and community sector.

NHS: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* actual and *(b)* risk-adjusted backlog maintenance was for each NHS trust in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [299212]

Ann Keen: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

National health service organisations are responsible for the provision and maintenance of facilities to support the delivery of high quality clinical services. Therefore, the NHS will locally prioritise investment to reduce backlog maintenance based on risk assessment, reconfiguration planning and available resources. The majority of backlog maintenance relates to low priority work, which trusts will undertake through maintenance programmes. Where higher risks are present, work will be undertaken as a priority. While levels of backlog maintenance vary across the NHS, it is estimated that around 75 per cent. of the total costs to eradicate backlog maintenance is concentrated in 20 per cent. of organisations.

The Department collects data on backlog maintenance and risk adjusted backlog maintenance annually from NHS trusts through its Estates Returns Information Collection. The data provided are not amended centrally and the responsibility for its accuracy lies with the contributing NHS organisations.

NHS: Working Hours

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS trusts have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been granted derogations from the provisions of the European Working Time Directive. [298297]

Ann Keen: The National Scrutiny Panel for England considered applications from 77 trusts and recommended 273 service rotas for derogation.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent in each category on ensuring that NHS trusts comply with the provisions of the European Working Time Directive. [298299]

Ann Keen: A total of £310 million has been made available to support compliance with the European working time directive.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has given to each NHS trust for the purposes of assisting with compliance with the provisions of the European Working Time Directive. [298300]

Ann Keen: These data are not collected centrally.

A total of £310 million was made available to support the implementation of the working time directive for junior doctors.

In 2009-10, £200 million was made available in primary care trust (PCT) revenue allocations to support working time directive implementation, in addition to the £110 million that was made available in 2008-09.

£150 million of the £200 million was made explicit in the 2009-10 tariff uplift.

Strategic health authorities (SHAs) have been able to target a further £50 million to support change and expansion in paediatrics, obstetrics and anaesthetics.

SHAs have made the criteria clear to PCTs and trust boards of the availability of funding.

Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the potential savings to the NHS *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each primary care trust of full implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's February 2006 guidance on nutrition support in adults. [298373]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is not held centrally.

Obesity: Children

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated to the provision of child weight management programmes in 2009-10. [2978[illegible]]

Gillian Merron: In 2009-10, the Department allocated £69 million to primary care trusts (PCTs), as part of their overall PCT allocations, to support our obesity strategy. This includes funding for child weight management services.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of *(a)* overweight and *(b)* obese children are participating in child weight management programmes in each primary care trust area. [297804]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not hold information on the number of children who have been referred to a child weight management programme. It is up to primary care trusts (PCTs) to commission these programmes according to their local needs.

PCTs are encouraged to evaluate their programmes with the standard evaluation framework provided by the National Obesity Observatory, and we are in the process of developing systems to help PCTs to monitor the number of children being referred to a weight management programme.

Orthopaedics

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* full and *(b)* partial limb amputations were carried out in each of the last five years. [297862]

Ann Keen: The following table gives information on finished consultant episodes where a main or secondary procedure of amputation of the limb was carried out in the last five years.

However, we are unable to divide the data into partial or full amputation as there is a risk of double counting. For instance, there are occasions when a person could have more than one amputation during an episode of care, for example, initially it might be intended for the patient to have a 'partial limb amputation' which may proceed to a 'full limb amputation.'

A count of finished consultant episodes[1] where a main or secondary procedure[2] of amputation of the limb[3] was carried out, 2004-05 to 2008-09—Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Operation description	*Operation code*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Amputation of arm						
Forequarter amputation	X07.1	8	10	20	20	12

A count of finished consultant episodes[1] where a main or secondary procedure[2] of amputation of the limb[3] was carried out, 2004-05 to 2008-09—Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Operation description	*Operation code*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Disarticulation of shoulder	X07.2	8	7	10	6	18
Amputation of arm above elbow	X07.3	57	56	64	59	58
Amputation of arm through forearm	X07.5	29	27	29	23	26
Other specified amputation of arm	X07.8	2	3	1	3	4
Unspecified amputation of arm	X07.9	2	5	5	6	4
Amputation of leg						
Hindquarter amputation	X09.1	24	21	29	27	30
Disarticulation of hip	X09.2	49	39	51	49	37
Amputation of leg above knee	X09.3	2,805	2,782	2,653	2,755	2,767
Amputation of leg through knee	X09.4	145	156	167	184	199
Amputation of leg below knee	X09.5	2,760	2,651	2,492	2,596	2,753
Other specified amputation of leg	X09.8	11	8	8	6	4
Unspecified amputation of leg	X09.9	8	8	6	7	8
Amputation of hand, foot and toe						
Amputation of hand at wrist	X08.1	5	8	7	8	13
Amputation of thumb	X08.2	207	238	247	283	266
Amputation of phalanx of finger	X08.3	1,699	1,601	1,703	1,710	1,745
Amputation of finger nec	X08.4	1,546	1,611	1,720	1,803	1,713
Other specified amputation of hand	X08.8	49	52	43	49	42
Unspecified amputation of hand	X08.9	7	10	1	5	4
Amputation of foot through ankle	X10.1	40	40	31	46	45
Disarticulation of tarsal bones	X10.2	11	10	8	5	10
[disarticulation of metatarsal bones	X10.3	49	55	52	49	56
Amputation through metatarsal bones	X10.4	627	626	574	660	736
Other specified amputation of foot	X10.8	94	93	86	71	79
Unspecified amputation of foot	X10.9	43	50	31	46	51
Amputation of great toe	X11.1	1,354	1,326	1,320	1,395	1,586
Amputation of phalanx of toe	X11.2	1,467	1,432	1,560	1,544	1,638
Other specified amputation of toe	X11.8	1,571	1,472	1,526	1,519	1,564
Unspecified amputation of toe	X11.9	1,712	1,851	1,729	1,844	1,943

A count of finished consultant episodes[1] where a main or secondary procedure[2] of amputation of the limb[3] was carried out, 2004-05 to 2008-09—Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Operation description	*Operation code*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Reamputation						
Reamputation at higher level	X12.1	387	388	397	416	501

[1] *Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)*
A finished consultant episode (FCE) is defined as a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. It should be noted that the figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

[2] *Number of episodes with a (named) main or secondary procedure*
These figures represent the number of episodes where the procedure (or intervention) was recorded in any of the 24 (12 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and four prior to 2002-03) operative procedure fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. A record is only included once in each count, even if the procedure is recorded in more than one operative procedure field of the record. It should be noted that more procedures are carried out than episodes with a main or secondary procedure. For example, patients under going a 'cataract operation' would tend to have at least two procedures—removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one—counted in a single episode.

[3] *Ungrossed data*
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

[4] *Data quality*
HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

[5] *Changes to coding classifications: OPCS-4*
Operative procedure codes were revised for 2006-07 and 2007-08. The 2008-09 and 2007-08 data uses OPCS 4.4 codes, 2006-07 data use OPCS 4.3 codes, data prior to 2006-07 uses OPCS 4.2 codes. All codes that were in OPCS 4.2 remain in later OPCS 4 versions, however the introduction of OPCS 4.3 codes enable the recording of interventions and procedures which were not possible in OPCS 4.2. In particular, OPCS 4.3 and OPCS 4.4 codes include high cost drugs and diagnostic imaging, testing and rehabilitation. Some activity may have been coded under different codes in OPCS 4.2. These changes need to be borne in mind when analysing time series and may explain some apparent variations over time. Please note that care needs to be taken in using the newer codes as some providers of data were unable to start using the new codes at the beginning of each data year. More information about OPCS 4 changes is on the Connecting for Health website:
www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk

[6] *Assessing growth through time*
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

[7] The following codes were used for amputation of limb:
Amputation of arm
X07.1 Forequarter amputation
X07.2 Disarticulation of shoulder
X07.3 Amputation of arm above elbow
X07.4 Amputation of arm through elbow
X07.5 Amputation of arm through forearm
X07.8 Other specified amputation of arm
X07.9 Unspecified amputation of arm
Amputation of leg
X09.1 Hindquarter amputation
X09.2 Disarticulation of hip
X09.3 Amputation of leg above knee
X09.4 Amputation of leg through knee
X09.5 Amputation of leg below knee
X09.8 Other specified amputation of leg
X09.9 Unspecified amputation of leg
Amputation of hand, foot and toe
X08.1 Amputation of hand at wrist
X08.2 Amputation of thumb
X08.3 Amputation of phalanx of finger
X08.4 Amputation of finger NEC
X08.8 Other specified amputation of hand
X08.9 Unspecified amputation of hand
X10.1 Amputation of foot through ankle
X10.2 Disarticulation of tarsal bones
X10.3 Disarticulation of metatarsal bones
X10.4 Amputation through metatarsal bones
X10.8 Other specified amputation of foot
X10.9 Unspecified amputation of foot
X11.1 Amputation of great toe
X11.2 Amputation of phalanx of toe
X11.8 Other specified amputation of toe
X11.9 Unspecified amputation of toe
The following code may apply to any site, and is not restricted to arm, leg, hand, foot, finger, or toe:
X12.1 Reamputation at higher level
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES); Outpatients, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Smoking

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assistance with smoking cessation his Department makes available to prisoners. [298086]

Gillian Merron: National health service primary care trusts have had responsibility for the provision of healthcare services in publicly run prisons from 2006. Nicotine Replacement Therapy and professional NHS Stop Smoking Services support are now available to prisoners who want to give up smoking, on a basis broadly equivalent to that in the outside community.

Last year (2008-09), nearly 10,000 prisoners (9,907) set a quit date with NHS Stop Smoking Services provided to them in prison. These services follow the standard effective service provision, including medication, which is guided by the annual "NHS Stop Smoking Services: Service and Monitoring Guidance" produced by the Department. The most recent guidance has been placed in the Library.

Social Services: Elderly

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the adequacy of arrangements for the provision of social care for older persons on their discharge from hospital. [297967]

Phil Hope: We have made no recent assessment of the adequacy of arrangements for the provision of social care for older people on discharge from hospital.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has a responsibility to assess how well adult social care departments at councils have commissioned services for the people in their areas. This will be done through periodic reviews of their performance.

In addition to the CQC's own assessment regime, Comprehensive Area Assessments will provide an overview of how successfully local organisations are working individually and together to improve services in their area.

Furthermore, the Department recently published the document 'Use of Resources in Adult Social Care' to help local authorities to benchmark against other authorities on a range of measures, including examining the outcomes for the older people from the local arrangements between health and social care for hospital discharges. The guide promotes best practice. Finally, the Department is also focusing its resources on the prevention and early intervention to avoid older people entering hospital and retaining a healthy and independent life.

Swine Flu: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London have been diagnosed with swine influenza. [298110]

Gillian Merron: Estimates of the numbers of people who have had swine flu are only available for the whole population. Therefore the Department does not have estimates of the number of people who have been diagnosed with swine flu in Bexley or Greater London.

Swine Flu: Vaccination

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of all documents held by his Department relating to the decisions on priority access groups for the swine influenza vaccine. [298962]

Gillian Merron: Copies of relevant meeting minutes from the Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) about their advice on the high priority at risk groups for swine flu vaccination have been placed in the Library. JCVI is the statutory body with responsibility for providing Ministers with advice about vaccination programmes.

These minutes are also displayed on JCVI's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/ab/jcvi/index.htm

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Coastal Areas: Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent employees had responsibility for the *(a)* Seaside and Country Homes scheme and *(b)* housingmoves.org website in each of the last three years. [296924]

Mr. Ian Austin: Since July 2007 the Department has employed eight full-time equivalent (FTE) employees responsible for the delivery of *(a)* the Seaside and Country Homes scheme and 0.05 FTE for *(b)* the housingmoves.org website.

To enable these high value and high demand moves the staff provide:

> A brokering service to match registered applicants with suitable homes as they become available
>
> a 'drop-in' service for older and often vulnerable applicants where they can meet with an adviser face to face to assist with enquiries, housing options and applications
>
> a telephone helpline for applicants to advise on housing options, the progress of applications; and the availability of alternative accommodation
>
> marketing for the scheme to increase landlord and tenant participation including the identification and use of hard to let social stock (such as sheltered housing)

Each move results in a net saving to Treasury of about £12,000 (or £2.4 million for 200 moves each year—based on a 2004 departmental economic study) based on savings: in the cost of temporary accommodation; in the cost of managing empty properties; and the costs of housing benefit payments

In addition the staff provides the housing brokerage service for vulnerable British Nationals returning under the Zimbabwe Resettlement programme.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on the Seaside and Country Homes scheme under each budgetary heading in each of the last three years. [296925]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department has spent the following amount on the Seaside and Country Homes scheme:

	July 2007[1]-March 2008	April 2008-March 2009	April-October 2009
Staff costs	260,200	317,160	162,605
Grant to non-LA bodies	115,736	0	0
IT/Facilities management (incl. utilities and services)	299,027	550,345	352,082
Travel and subsistence	733	7,592	3,665
Insurance	1,005	1,647	0
Marketing and publishing	14,265	44,463	29,027
Council tax	36,051	36,050	33,465
Rent and service charge	200,136	167,867	90,592
Total expenditure on the Seaside and Country Homes scheme	958,027	1,125,153	671,206

Notes:

1. The housingmoves website went on-line in July 2007

2. Data for October 2009 are current up to and including 27 October 2009

The resource investment supports the delivery of high demand social mobility schemes. The Department (Secretary of State) has nomination rights to specific properties under the Seaside and Country Homes scheme. The service employs staff in discrete premises (until the lease expires in February 2011) providing: a front line delivery service; a telephone help line; an informative website with on-line registration and an accessible 'drop in centre' for older and often vulnerable applicants. The service also provides the housing brokerage service for vulnerable British Nationals returning under the Zimbabwe Resettlement programme.

There are between 170-250 moves arranged per year that enable London based applicants to give up their social letting in the capital and move to more appropriate properties in preferred locations. Each move results in a net saving to Treasury of about £12,000 (or £2.4 million for 200 moves each year—based on a 2004 departmental economic study) based on savings: in the cost of temporary accommodation; in the cost of managing empty properties; and the costs of housing benefit payments.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many tenants applied for alternative accommodation under the Seaside and Country Homes Scheme in each of the last three years. [296929]

Mr. Ian Austin: The number of tenants applying to move to alternative accommodation through the Seaside and Country Homes Scheme is detailed in the following table.

From	To	Number
July 2007[1]	March 2008	340
April 2008	March 2009	805
April 2009	October 2009[2]	475

[1] The housingmoves website went online in July 2007

[2] Data for October 2009 are current up to and including 27 October 2009

Each move results in a net saving to Treasury of about £12,000 (or £2.4 million for 200 moves each year—based on a 2004 departmental economic study) based on savings: in the cost of temporary accommodation; in the cost of managing empty properties; and the costs of housing benefit payments.

To enable these high value and high demand moves, the staff provide:

A brokering service to match registered applicants with suitable homes as they become available.

A 'drop-in' service for older and often vulnerable applicants where they can meet with an adviser face to face to assist with inquiries, housing options and applications.

A telephone helpline for applicants to advise on housing options; the progress of applications; and the availability of alternative accommodation.

Marketing for the scheme to increase landlord and tenant participation including the identification and use of hard to let social stock (such as sheltered housing).

In addition, the staff provide the housing brokerage service for vulnerable British nationals returning under the Zimbabwe Resettlement Programme.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many tenants moved from each local authority area under the Seaside and Country Homes Scheme in each of the last three years. [296865]

Mr. Ian Austin: The number of tenants moved from each local authority (London borough) under the Seaside and Country Homes Scheme is detailed in the following table.

London borough	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
Barking and Dagenham	5	6	17
Barnet	0	3	1
Bexley	3	6	2
Brent	0	0	0
Bromley	2	6	3
Camden	1	3	3
City of London	0	0	1
Croydon	5	6	4
Ealing	3	5	5
Enfield	2	3	3
Greenwich	14	23	12
Hackney	3	10	7
Hammersmith and Fulham	2	5	4
Haringey	3	5	0
Harrow	2	3	1
Havering	0	5	1
Hillingdon	0	2	7
Hounslow	4	18	2
Islington	3	8	8
Kensington and Chelsea	1	0	1
Kingston	1	3	1
Lambeth	3	5	6
Lewisham	7	12	6
Merton	1	1	3
Newham	10	16	12
Redbridge	2	5	3
Richmond	1	4	3
Southwark	10	10	23
Sutton	4	6	4
Tower Hamlets	5	10	7
Waltham Forest	2	13	10
Wandsworth	5	4	7

London borough	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
Westminster	1	3	3
Total	105	219	179

Notes:
1. The housingmoves website went on-line in July 2007.
2. Data for October 2009 are current up to and including 27 October 2009.

Each move results in a net saving to Treasury of about £12,000 (or £2.4 million for 200 moves each year—based on a 2004 Departmental economic study) based on savings: in the cost of temporary accommodation; in the cost of managing empty properties; and the costs of housing benefit payments.

To enable these high value and high demand moves the staff provide:

A brokering service to match registered applicants with suitable homes as they become available

a 'drop-in' service for older and often vulnerable applicants where they can meet with an adviser face to face to assist with enquiries, housing options and applications

a telephone helpline for applicants to advise on housing options; the progress of applications; and the availability of alternative accommodation

marketing for the scheme to increase landlord and tenant participation including the identification and use of hard to let social stock (such as sheltered housing).

In addition the staff provide the housing brokerage service for vulnerable British Nationals returning under the Zimbabwe Resettlement Programme.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many tenants moved to alternative accommodation through the Seaside and Country Homes Scheme in each of the last three years. [illegible]

Mr. Ian Austin: The number of tenants moving to alternative accommodation through the Seaside and Country Homes Scheme is detailed in the following table.

From	To	Number
July 2007[1]	March 2008	179
April 2008	March 2009	219
April 2009	October 2009[2]	105

[1] The housingmoves website went online in July 2007.
[2] Data for October 2009 are current up to and including 27 October 2009.

Each move results in a net saving to Treasury of about £12,000 (or £2.4 million for 200 moves each year—based on a 2004 departmental economic study) based on savings: in the cost of temporary accommodation; in the cost of managing empty properties; and the costs of housing benefit payments.

To enable these high value and high demand moves, the staff provide:

A brokering service to match registered applicants with suitable homes as they become available.

A 'drop-in' service for older and often vulnerable applicants where they can meet with an adviser face to face to assist with inquiries, housing options and applications.

A telephone helpline for applicants to advise on housing options; the progress of applications; and the availability of alternative accommodation.

Marketing for the scheme to increase landlord and tenant participation including the identification and use of hard to let social stock (such as sheltered housing).

In addition, the staff provide the housing brokerage service for vulnerable British nationals returning under the Zimbabwe Resettlement Programme.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* bungalows and *(b)* flats are managed by landlords taking part in the Seaside and Country Homes Scheme. [296928]

Mr. Ian Austin: There are 2,302 bungalows and 1,060 flats managed by landlords taking part in the Seaside and Country Homes Scheme.

There are between 170 to 250 moves arranged per year that enable London-based applicants to give up their social letting in the capital and move to more appropriate properties in preferred locations. Each move results in a net saving to Treasury of about £12,000 (or £2.4 million for 200 moves each year—based on a 2004 departmental economic study) based on savings: in the cost of temporary accommodation; in the cost of managing empty properties; and the costs of housing benefit payments.

To enable these high value and high demand moves, the staff provide:

A brokering service to match registered applicants with suitable homes as they become available.

A 'drop-in' service for older and often vulnerable applicants where they can meet with an adviser face to face to assist with inquiries, housing options and applications.

A telephone helpline for applicants to advise on housing options; the progress of applications; and the availability of alternative accommodation.

Marketing for the scheme to increase landlord and tenant participation including the identification and use of hard to let social stock (such as sheltered housing).

In addition, the staff provide the housing brokerage service for vulnerable British nationals returning under the Zimbabwe Resettlement Programme.

Community Development: Doncaster

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many community wardens were in post in Doncaster *(a)* at the most recent date for which figures are available and *(b)* in each year since their introduction. [298640]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is as follows.

Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council—Community Wardens

The following table shows the number of community wardens that have been in post from April 2004 until September 2009. Doncaster has had Neighbourhood Wardens since 2001-02 but was unable to supply figures until 2004.

	Community Safety Wardens	Community First Officers	Neighbourhood Response Team
4 April	50	34	n/a
7 February	48	33	10
9 September	53	35	10

Community Development: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his announcement of the £12 million Connecting Communities Programme on 14 October 2009, how much money has been allocated to each of the 27 areas announced to date; which local groups will receive funding for which projects in each area; and how the effectiveness of funding in each case will be assessed. [298514]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* No funding has yet been allocated.

We are in the process of agreeing action plans with each of the 27 areas, and these are based on addressing local challenges. The plans, and the amount of funding, will vary from area to area, as will the local partners and groups involved in delivering the solutions. Although there is a modest amount of additional resources available, the main focus will be on working through and with existing Government and local programmes and resources operating in target areas. This is about intensive community engagement to influence mainstream investment, not a stand alone programme.

In line with the Government commitment to reduce ring-fencing each authority will have the flexibility to manage this additional funding in the most effective way to deliver solutions that meet local needs.

We are also considering proposals for a national evaluation of the programme.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his announcement of the £12 million Connecting Communities Programme on 14 October 2009, how much of the £12 million represents additional funding; what proportion of this funding will be spent in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [298515]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* The £12 million is available this financial year to local authorities to support activities in the Connecting Communities' areas. This money was announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review settlement but has not been previously allocated.

Connecting Communities is an ambitious programme of work to reinvigorate and re-involve groups in areas that are feeling the pressure of the recession most acutely. Around 100 areas around the country have been identified for a targeted programme of work that will focus on alleviating those pressures and making sure that real help is available. Practical actions delivered on estates and streets will focus on developing a real insight into what is happening in those communities and introduce changes that will address local people's concerns, reconnect them with jobs and tackle the real and perceived sense of unfairness some people are feeling.

Council Housing: Finance

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the possible addition of future estimated surpluses on the housing revenue account subsidy to the council house capital debt considered for distribution to local authorities for repayment; [299155]

(2) what estimate he has made of the total debt to be distributed among local authorities in order for local authority-owned housing to be self-financing; [299157]

(3) what estimate he has made of the debt additional to historic council housing debt which is to be distributed among local authorities in order for local authority housing to be self-financing. [299210]

Mr. Ian Austin: Our proposals for self-financing would put every local authority in a position to sustain their homes from their own revenues in future, ending the need to redistribute income by means of a one-off reallocation of housing debt. Our consultation paper notes that the total amount of housing debt held by councils under self-financing could be higher or lower than the current level of debt supported through the HRA subsidy system. The debt allocated to each council would be set at a level which it could support within a sustainable business plan which delivers the extra investment we have identified is needed (including an average 24 per cent. increase in funding for major repairs) while continuing to set social rents in line with national policy.

The aggregate amount of housing debt allocated under self-financing will depend on a range of variables in addition to assumptions on annual management, maintenance and repairs. These include rent levels, interest rates, the pricing of risk and the funding of the backlog of repairs. As work on assessing these issues has not yet been completed, I am not in a position to estimate the amount of debt under the new system and Ministers have not had discussions on this issue with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I am however clear that the additional spending on management, maintenance and major repairs which we have committed to fund as part of our reforms will mean that all councils are better off under self-financing than they would be if the current system continued unreformed.

Departmental Consultants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the *(a)* Homes and Communities Agency, *(b)* Tenant Services Authority and *(c)* Homes and Communities Agency Academy have spent on public affairs consultancy in 2009-10; and what the budget of each for such services is for 2009-10. [299229]

John Healey: The HCA and HCA Academy have spent no money on public affairs consultancy in the year to date. The TSA have spent £5,081.86 (including VAT) to date. None of these bodies have plans for any further expenditure on public affairs consultancy this year.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 29 of his Department's Resource Accounts for 2008-09, HC 449, what the *(a)* nature and *(b)* subject was of each sensitive official document on the computer stolen from the then Secretary of State. [294657]

Barbara Follett: The documents mainly consisted of the details of the times, venues and attendees at meetings which the Secretary of State was due to hold: in many cases, the information was historic. In addition, some internal policy documents classified as "Restricted" and some contact details for officials were held on the computer. A number of these policy documents were also historic and the information they contained was out-of-date and consequently, no longer sensitive. The computer also contained a presentation on the housing market which, in March 2008, had been regarded as "confidential" in the general sense but which was also out-of-date.

These documents were individually reviewed by officials in the Department immediately after the theft of the computer was reported. They concluded that none of the material included sensitive personal data about the public that would be of use to criminals. The computer was password protected and did not contain any material with the official classifications of Confidential, Secret or Top Secret.

Departmental ICT

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with which organisations his Department has had exclusivity agreements relating to information technology *(a)* hardware and *(b)* software in each of the last five years. [298364]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 9 November 2009]*: The Department has had no exclusivity agreements relating to information technology *(a)* hardware and *(b)* software in the last five years.

Departmental Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the rateable value of each of his Department's buildings was on the most recent date for which figures are available based on *(a)* the 2005 Rating List and *(b)* the draft 2010 Rating List. [294881]

Barbara Follett: The rateable values for the Department for Communities and Local Government's Headquarter buildings are listed on the Valuation Office Agency's website at:

www.voa.gov.uk

		£
	2005	*2010*
Eland House, Victoria, London	6,850,000	11,380,000
Ground, 1st and 2nd floor Hempstead House, Hemel Hempstead	229,500	224,500
2 Victoria St, Glossop	6,400	6,800
1st Floor 232-242 Vauxhall Bridge Rd London	69,000	130,000
Fire Experimental Unit Moreton in Marsh	45,000	56,000
1st Floor Sheffield House Stevenage	37,250	45,250

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department and its predecessors travelled by (i) car, (ii) rail and (iii) air on Government business in each year since 1997. [298544]

Barbara Follett: The travel undertaken by the Department for Communities and Local Government's Ministers and officials is set out as follows (in miles):

	Car	*Rail*	*Air*
2005-06	1,010,302	n/k	n/k
2006-07	861,883	n/k	628,388
2007-08	698,705	2,181,945	591,505
2008-09	604,352	2,016,063	736,723

Notes:
1. Accurate data are not available prior to 2005-06.
2. These data cover central CLG only and do not include the Government office network or Executive agencies

Travel undertaken by Ministers and officials is not routinely separated. However, of the data above, CLG recorded that its Ministers travelled 65,173 miles by car in 2007-08 and 76,638 miles in 2008-09.

Domestic Violence: Refuges

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether people accommodated in domestic violence refuges are assessed as statutorily homeless; and whether such people are included in his Department's homelessness statistics. [298264]

Mr. Ian Austin: Under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996), local housing authorities in England must consider all applications for accommodation or assistance in obtaining accommodation, including any applications made by people accommodated in refuges for people who have suffered domestic violence. The local authority must consider whether there is reason to believe the applicant may be homeless or likely to become homeless within 28 days, and, if there is such reason, must make inquiries to determine whether any duty is owed under the legislation. Earlier this year, the House of Lords ruled that, in most cases, a woman who has left her home because of domestic (or other) violence within it remains homeless even if she has found a temporary haven in a women's refuge.

Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level. This includes the number of applicants accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty ("homeless acceptances") and, of these, the number accommodated temporarily in a women's refuge, at the end of each quarter.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what recent guidance his Department has issued on the design of waste collection services and facilities in new housing; [292622]

(2) with reference to his Department's publication, Code for Sustainable Homes: a step-change in sustainable home building practice, what guidelines his Department has issued on the minimum volume of space required for *(a)* residential waste storage and *(b)* recycling; and what assumptions are made in the guidelines on the size and number of household wheeled refuse containers that could fit into that space. [illegible]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government provide a requirement and guidance for the design of waste collection services and facilities in new housing, such as waste bins, in Part H6 of Schedule 1 of the Building Regulations 2000, and in Category 5—Waste, of the Code for Sustainable Homes (the Code.)

The requirement set out in Part H6 will be met if the solid waste storage is:

designed and sited so as not to be prejudicial to health;

of sufficient area having regard to the requirements of the waste collection authority for the number and size of receptacles under Sections 46 and 47 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990;

sited so as to be accessible for use by people in the building and of ready access for removal to the collection point specified by the waste collection authority under Sections 4 and 47 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The Waste Category of the Code for Sustainable Homes (the Code) provides a mandatory requirement and guidance for the provision of storage space for residential waste and for recycling waste.

The mandatory requirements within the Code Waste Category, is based around British Standard 5906 2005 (100 litres for the first bedroom and then a further 70 litres for each additional bedroom). The requirements in the Code will be met if:

space is provided for storage of containers for separated waste, with a combined capacity of $0.25m^3$ or in agreement with the waste collection authority;

adequate external space is provided to accommodate a local authority recycling scheme offering containers equal to or greater than the above volume;

all the containers are accessible to disabled people.

Empty Property: Council Tax

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what level of council tax discount is applied to an empty dwelling which is *(a)* furnished and *(b)* unfurnished. [298447]

Barbara Follett: Local authorities have discretion to set the council tax discount *(a)* on substantially furnished dwellings which are the not the taxpayer's sole or main residence at any point between 50 and 10 per cent. and *(b)* on substantially unfurnished and unoccupied dwellings at any point between 50 and zero per cent., following a statutory period of exemption.

Fire Services: Industrial Health and Safety

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will introduce a national regime for the enforcement of safe working procedures in the fire service. [295741]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

There is already a regime for the enforcement of safe working procedures in the fire services.

The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 requires fire and rescue services, as with all employers, to ensure so far as is reasonably practicable the health and safety of their employees and others who may be affected by their work activities. This Act is enforced by the Health and Safety Executive who inspect fire and rescue services proactively and investigate significant incidents. Their inspections include examination of health and safety policies and procedures, provision of equipment and training of firefighters.

Homes and Communities Agency: Consultants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on which projects the Homes and Communities Agency has employed external consultants since its inception. [297818]

John Healey: The HCA are involved, both directly and indirectly, in numerous projects. The use of consultants by the HCA therefore on each individual project cannot be disaggregated except at disproportionate cost.

Housing Ombudsman

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints the Housing Ombudsman received from leaseholders in each of the last three years. [298263]

Mr. Ian Austin: The number of complaints received by the housing ombudsman from leaseholders in each of the last three years is set out in the following table:

Leaseholder	*Number*
2006-07	173
2007-08	256
2008-09	232

The figures provided refer to the complaints received from leaseholders, they do not relate specifically to leasehold issues.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the net balance of the housing revenue account subsidy system in each year to 2019-20. [299161]

Mr. Ian Austin: The calculation of housing revenue account (HRA) subsidy relies on a number of factors which change from year to year, including stock disposals, and the level at which we set the local authority average guideline rent increase. Communities and Local Government has yet to go out to consultation on the guideline rent increase for 2010-11. We have not made, and currently could not make, any reliable long term estimates of HRA subsidy up to 2019-20.

Following consultation, we are currently working on proposals for radical reform of local authority housing finance. Our intention is to dismantle the HRA subsidy system and replace it with a devolved system of responsibility and funding.

Housing: Prices

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the mean *(a)* income and *(b)* house price in each local authority area in each of the last three years. [299160]

Mr. Ian Austin: Data on mean income by local authority for each of the last three years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mean house prices by local authority area are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table-585.xls

Housing: Sustainable Development

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing units have been fully assessed by his Department under the Code for Sustainable Homes. [292471]

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been accredited to Level 6 under the Code for Sustainable Homes to date. [294133]

Mr. Ian Austin: Code level 6 is a zero carbon home with very high sustainability standards and is an incredibly high standard to build to. However, we now have a growing number of homes been built to this higher level of code.

It takes between 18 months and two years to design and build a code home. The code came into operation in April 2007, but we did not start seeing homes built to the code standard until late 2008. The numbers of code homes are increasing every month. There are a total of 1,018 homes with code certificates spread across all code levels at post-construction stage (i.e. completed code homes), 5,630 at design stage and over 300,000 registered homes on over 3000 developments. Most of these homes are built to code level 3—which represents for energy a 25 per cent. improvement on the current Building Regulations and is a demanding building standard. Homes are funded to this level by the Homes and Communities Agency.

There are two stages in the assessment process for the Code for Sustainable Homes (the Code). At design stage there have been 12 homes accredited at code level 6 and at post-construction stage there have been six homes accredited.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the average cost incurred in addition to the cost of meeting the requirement of Building Regulations in meeting the requirements of each level of the Code of Sustainable Homes Code in respect of *(a)* detached housing, *(b)* end-of-terrace housing, *(c)* low-rise flats and *(d)* high-rise flats. [294877]

Mr. Ian Austin: Costs were published 21 July 2008 in Cost Analysis of the Code for Sustainable Homes: Final Report. No differentiation between high rise and low rise flats is available. The costs are estimates and are not definitive.

Housingmoves: Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* unique visitors and *(b)* page impressions were received by the housingmoves.org website in each of the last 12 months. [296866]

Mr. Ian Austin: The information is as follows:

Website Statistics: 'housingmoves'

From	To	*(a) Unique visitors*	*(b) Page impressions*
July 2007[1]	March 2008	3,523	4,101
April 2008	March 2009	14,309	21,866
April 2009	October 2009[2]	11,453	23,100

[1] The housingmoves website went on-line in July 2007.
[2] Data for October 2009 are current up to and including 27 October 2009.

Each move results in a net saving to Treasury of about £12,000 (or £2.4 million for 200 moves each year—based on a 2004 Departmental economic study) based on savings: in the cost of temporary accommodation; in the cost of managing empty properties; and the costs of housing benefit payments.

To enable these high value and high demand moves the staff provide:

A brokering service to match registered applicants with suitable homes as they become available

a 'drop-in' service for older and often vulnerable applicants where they can meet with an adviser face to face to assist with enquiries, housing options and applications

a telephone helpline for applicants to advise on housing options; the progress of applications; and the availability of alternative accommodation

marketing for the scheme to increase landlord and tenant participation including the identification and use of hard to let social stock (such as sheltered housing).

In addition the staff provide the housing brokerage service for vulnerable British Nationals returning under the Zimbabwe Resettlement Programme.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has provided for the housingmoves.org website in each of the last three years; what other sources of funding the service has; and how much has been allocated by his Department to the website for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [296867]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department has provided funding for the housingmoves.org website as detailed follows. There are no other sources of funding.

£

From	*To*	*Website development*
July 2007[1]	March 2008	700
April 2008	March 2009	35,500
April 2009	October 2009[2]	16,000

[1] The housingmoves website went on-line in July 2007.

[2] Data for October 2009 are current up to and including 27 October 2009.

The Department has also allocated funding for the website in 2009-10 of £5,000 and funding for 2010-11 has yet to be allocated.

To enable these high value and high demand moves the staff provided:

A brokering service to match registered applicants with suitable homes as they become available

a 'drop-in' service for older and often vulnerable applicants where they can meet with an adviser face to face to assist with enquiries, housing options and applications

a telephone helpline for applicants to advise on housing options; the progress of applications; and the availability of alternative accommodation

marketing for the scheme to increase landlord and tenant participation including the identification and use of hard to let social stock (such as sheltered housing).

In addition the staff provide the housing brokerage service for vulnerable British Nationals returning under the Zimbabwe Resettlement Programme.

Local Government: Pensions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authority pension funds in the East of England are *(a)* in surplus and *(b)* in deficit; and how much the surplus or deficit is in each case. [296175]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 964W, to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles).

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of people who will be eligible for assistance under the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme in *(a)* West Derbyshire and *(b)* Britain in the next 12 months. [297975]

John Healey: Homeowners Mortgage Support is part of the range of assistance available at every stage to households struggling with their mortgage. The scheme encourages lenders to allow households who have suffered a temporary income shock to defer some of their interest payment, if this is necessary to make their monthly payment affordable. This form of support provides a safety net for those who cannot avoid repossession in other ways.

Homeowners Mortgage Support is a lender led scheme and future take-up depends on a range of market factors, in particular the level of interest rates. The Department plans to publish information in December on the number of households who have been helped through Homeowners Mortgage Support. Statistics from the Financial Services Authority show that more than 135,000 borrowers were benefiting from forbearance offered by their lender at the end of June 2009, an increase of 17 per cent. on the previous quarter.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hereditaments in London will be liable for supplementary business rate in London from April 2010. [294912]

Barbara Follett: The Business Rate Supplements Act 2009 provides a discretionary power for upper tier authorities to levy a supplement on the business rate to promote additional local economic development projects. The levying authority has discretion to set the threshold for liability for the Business Rate Supplement anywhere above the minimum of £50,000 rateable value.

The Mayor of London has just finished consulting on his proposals to levy a Business Rate Supplement from April 2010 as part of the funding package for Crossrail. The minimum threshold provided in legislation means that no more than 50,000 business properties in London on the draft 2010 rating list (18 per cent. of all London properties on that list) will be liable for BRS, with discretion for the Mayor to set a higher threshold exempting additional properties. The dataset used is consistent with the consultation document titled: "The transitional arrangements for the non-domestic rating revaluation 2010 in England", published on 8 July 2009. The number of hereditaments actually liable for the Business Rate Supplement in London will depend on the level at which the Mayor chooses to set the threshold.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individual hereditament *(a)* betting shops and offices, *(b)* bingo halls, *(c)* public houses, licensed restaurants and wine bars, *(d)* night clubs and discotheques and *(e)* casinos and gambling clubs were on the 1997 version, or nearest equivalent, of the Valuation Office Agency's 1995 Rating List. [295702]

Barbara Follett: The following information relates to Rating Lists within England as at 1 April 1997.

Description	*England*
Betting Offices (SCAT 988)	3,270
Bingo Halls (SCAT 021)	650
Public Houses (Primary Description Code CL)	49,520
Restaurants (Primary Description Code CR)	17,970
Wine Bars (Primary Description Code CL1)	850
Night Clubs and Discotheques (SCAT 938)	1,050
Casinos and Gambling Clubs (SCAT 042)	110

Note:

The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Non-Domestic Rates: Aerials

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has provided guidance to the Valuation Office Agency on the application of business rates to wireless masts. [297369]

Barbara Follett: The assessment of rateable value and the maintenance of rating lists is the responsibility of the Valuation Office Agency and not this Department. We do not provide guidance to the Valuation Office Agency on professional valuation issues. The Valuation Office Agency is an independent agency of HM Revenue and Customs and has sole responsibility for determining the rateable value of all non-domestic properties in England.

Non-Domestic Rates: Internet

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency takes into account *(a)* wireless internet connections and *(b)* wireless access points as a material consideration when rating a hereditament for the 2010 revaluation. [297435]

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to include access to wireless broadband networks in the assessment of business rates; and if he will make a statement. [297878]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 5 November 2009]:* Rating assessments will reflect all service connections to the rental value of a hereditament (a unit of assessment for rating purposes), not just wireless internet connections and wireless access points. It is unlikely that a wireless access point will materially affect the value of an individual property for the current 2005 lists or for the 2010 revaluation.

Non-Domestic Rates: Parking

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many car parking spaces listed as domestic properties were exempt from the non-domestic rate under the Local Government Finance Act 1988 in *(a)* East Devon constituency, *(b)* Devon and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [298656]

Barbara Follett: All parking spaces used for domestic parking within the curtilage of dwellings are classed as domestic property and therefore exempt from non-domestic rates. Information on the numbers of such parking spaces is not available centrally.

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many hereditaments were on the Valuation Office Agency's Rating List with SCAT Code 279 in each year since 1997; [294452]

(2) how many hereditaments were on the Valuation Office Agency's Rating List with SCAT Code 123 in each year since 1997; [294453]

(3) how many hereditaments were on the Valuation Office Agency's Rating List with SCAT code 049 in each year since 1997; [294598]

(4) how many hereditaments were on the Valuation Office Agency's Rating List with SCAT code 228 in each year since 1997; [294602]

(5) how many hereditaments were on the Valuation Office Agency's Rating List with SCAT code 429 in each year since 1997. [294623]

Barbara Follett: The available information requested is given in the following tables and relates to information contained in the:

1995 Rating Lists—effective 1 April 1995 to 31 March 2000

2000 Rating Lists—effective 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2005

2005 Rating Lists—effective 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2010.

Figures are not comparable across this period due to changes in the use of special category (SCAT) codes. In particular:

SCAT Code 429 is effective from 1 April 2000.

SCAT Codes 049, 123, 228 and 279 existed in the 1995 Rating Lists but for different classes of property than they represent in the 2000 and 2005 rating lists.

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Sports stadiums, England

As at 1 April each year		*Number*
1997	*SCAT Code 279*	50
1998		50
1999		50

Theatres, England

As at 1 April each year		*Number*
2000	*SCAT Code 279*	580
2001		600
2002		600
2003		610
2004		650
2005		620
2006		640
2007		[illegible]
2008		670
2009		670

Private hospitals/clinics, England

1 April each year		*Number*
1997	*SCAT Code 123*	340
1998		350
1999		360

Gypsy camp sites (short stay), England

As at 1 April each year		*Number*
2000	*SCAT Code 123*	[1]—
2001		[1]—
2002		[1]—
2003		[1]—
2004		[1]—
2005		10
2006		10
2007		10
2008		[1]—
2009		[1]—

[1] Less than 10.

Cold stores, England

As at 1 April each year		*Number*
1997	*SCAT Code 049*	380
1998		370
1999		370

Casinos and gambling clubs, England

As at 1 April each year		*Number*
2000	*SCAT Code 049*	110
2001		110
2002		120
2003		120
2004		150
2005		130
2006		140
2007		150
2008		160
2009		160

Public conveniences, England

As at 1 April each year		*Number*
1997	*SCAT Code 228*	5,610
1998		5,530
1999		5,430

Public telephone kiosks, England

As at 1 April each year		*Number*
2000	*SCAT Code 228*	1,040
2001		1,190
2002		1,320
2003		1,340
2004		1,330
2005		1,260
2006		1,200
2007		1,160
2008		1,130
2009		1,100

Post offices,[1] England

As at 1 April each year		*Number*
2000	*SCAT Code 429*	1,410
2001		1,500
2002		1,660
2003		1,820
2004		1,820
2005		3,530
2006		3,420
2007		3,400
2008		3,370
2009		3,240

[1] Prior to 1 April 2005 some post offices were included under other SCAT codes.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hereditaments there are under each Valuation Office Agency *(a)* 2005 Rating List and *(b)* individual special category code and associated alphanumeric description on the draft 2010 Rating List. [297437]

Barbara Follett: I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing the number of hereditaments for England broken down by the full alphanumeric special category code on both the 2005 Ratings List and the draft 2010 Ratings List at 29 May 2009. These data are consistent with the consultation document titled: "The transitional arrangements for the non-domestic rating revaluation 2010 in England", published on 8 July 2009. A copy of the consultation document is available at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nndrrevaluation2010

The number of hereditaments in each special category code has been rounded to the nearest 10.

Planning Applications Review

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to Recommendation 1 of the Killian Pretty Review of the planning application process of November 2008, how many and what proportion of *(a)* minor non-residential and *(b)* householder developments have been removed from the need to apply for full planning permission. [298380]

Mr. Ian Austin: Recommendation 1 of the Killian Pretty review was that Government should substantially reduce the number of minor non-domestic developments requiring planning permission. This recommendation made no reference to householder developments, which had already been subject to reforms, introduced in October 2008.

In response to Recommendation 1, proposals to remove approximately 25,000 minor non-domestic developments from the need to submit full planning applications annually in England (approximately 30 per cent. of all minor non-domestic applications) were the subject of public consultation between 30 July and 23 October 2009. Subject to the outcome of our consideration of the consultation responses, secondary legislation enacting these proposals is expected in April 2010.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to Recommendation 15 of the Killian Pretty Review of the planning application process of November 2008, when his Department plans to replace the time-target based National Indicator with a Satisfaction with the planning application service indicator. [298381]

Mr. Ian Austin: A discussion document on a revised indicator of planning performance was included within the document "Taking Forward the Government's response to the Killian Pretty Review: Progress Report", published in July 2009. The closing date for comments on this document has recently passed. We are in the process of commissioning research to develop options based on the consultation responses and to test them through a series of pilot studies January-March 2010.

We propose to have a new indicator in place in time for the revision of the local authority performance framework, which will take effect from April 2011.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to Recommendation 5 of the Killian Pretty Review of the planning application process of November 2008, how many councils in England and Wales have participated in the National Process Improvement project. [298382]

Mr. Ian Austin: Four local planning authorities took part in the NPFP 'Transformational Planning' pathfinder pilot. The participating authorities were:

East Riding of Yorkshire council
Hambleton district council
Leeds city council
London borough of Lewisham

The collated findings of the pilot are summarised in the report 'Transforming Local Planning Services: Using Business Process Techniques', which provides advice to help other local authorities use business process improvement techniques in their planning services. There was an initial programme of dissemination in December 2008.

In line with the Government's response to Recommendation 5 of Killian Pretty, the Planning Advisory Service has commenced the next stage of dissemination by developing the 'Managing Excellent Planning Services' package. This has been well received, but is at an early stage.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to Recommendation 2 of the Killian Pretty Review of the planning application process of November 2008, what measures have been put in place to ensure that local planning authorities adopt a more proportionate approach to information requirements for design and access statements. [298478]

Mr. Ian Austin: In July 2009 we published a consultation paper 'Streamlining Information Requirements for Planning Applications' setting out proposals in response to Recommendation 2 of the Killian Pretty Review.

The consultation document included two main changes in relation to design and access statements:

to simplify the requirements for all design and access statements; and

to reduce the range of applications that require a design and access statement

The consultation period ended on 23 October and we are now in the process of analysing responses. Subject to the outcome of our consideration of consultation responses, secondary legislation enacting these proposals is expected in April 2010.

Planning Permission: Appeals

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions he and his predecessors have personally intervened to set a date for an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate in each of the last five years. [298977]

Mr. Ian Austin: There is no known instance where any Secretary of State has ever directly intervened in imposing a date for an appeal.

Planning Permission: Asbestos

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the number of planning applications which have been approved in respect of sites previously contaminated with asbestos; and if he will make a statement. [299015]

Mr. Ian Austin: The number of planning applications which have been approved in respect of sites previously contaminated with asbestos is not available centrally.

Right to Buy Scheme

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many right to buy sales there were in *(a)* 1980, *(b)* 1985, *(c)* 1990, *(d)* 1995, *(e)* 2000 and *(f)* each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what total of capital receipts was received by local authorities in each such year. [299115]

Mr. Ian Austin: Figures showing the number of local authority right to buy sales are included in Live Table 670 on the CLG website, broken down by region and year, from 1980-81:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1319866.xls

Figures on capital receipts from local authority right to buy sales are included in Live Table 643, from 1998-99. Figures on capital receipts are not available for earlier years:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1319845.xls

Figures showing the number of registered social landlord (RSL) right to buy sales are included in Live Table 675 on the CLG website, broken down by region and year, from 1996-97. Figures on sales of RSL properties are not available for earlier years, and figures are not available showing total RSL capital receipts:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1319878.xls

The local authority right to buy data are from quarterly P1B returns from local authorities to CLG.

The registered social landlord right to buy data are from Regulatory and Statistical Returns (RSR) from RSLs to the Tenant Services Authority (TSA).

Social Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the turnover rate of tenancies held from *(a)* registered social landlords and *(b)* local authorities in each of the last five years. [297691]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1198W.

Local authority figures for 2008-09 are reported through the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix, which will be published on 26 November, 2009.

Registered social landlord figures for 2008-09 are collected by the Tenant Services Authority, reported through the Regulatory Statistical Return. The following table gives turnover rates by region for stock owned by registered social landlords (RSLs) in 2008-09. This covers general needs households only.

Number of general needs lettings as a percentage of general needs stock owned by registered social landlords, 2008-09, by region

Region	*Percentage*
North East	9.4
North West	9.0
Yorkshire and the Humber	11.3
East Midlands	11.1
West Midlands	10.4
East of England	9.7
London	9.1
South East	8.7
South West	9.6
England	9.6

Notes:
1. Stock figures are reported as at 31 March.
2. Lettings are recorded over the period 1 April to 31 March.

Source:
Regulatory and Statistical Return, part O

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many transfers from one local authority area to another there have been by *(a)* registered social landlord and *(b)* local authority tenants in each year since 1997. [297823]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on transfers across local authority boundaries are available from the Continuous Recording of Lettings system (CORE).

The number of lettings by registered social landlords to tenants transferring from a social housing dwelling in another local authority area are provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Lettings to registered social landlord tenants transferring from a social housing dwelling in another local authority area, 1997-98 to 2008-09, England

	Number of lettings
1997-98	13,600
1998-99	13,900
1999-2000	13,700
2000-01	13,300
2001-02	13,300
2002-03	14,900
2003-04	14,100
2004-05	14,400
2005-06	13,200
2006-07	11,800
2007-08	12,100
2008-09	13,000

Notes:
1. Only registered social landlords with less than 250 stock are required to complete CORE.
2. Figures are reported from 1 April to 31 March..
3. Mutual exchanges are not included.
4. Figures include lettings general needs and supported housing.

Source:
Continuous Recording of Lettings

The number of lettings by local authorities to tenants transferring from a social housing dwelling in another local authority area are provided in Table 2. Figures for previous years are not available for local authorities. 2008-09 figures will be available in December/January.

Table 2: Lettings to local authority tenants transferring from a social housing dwelling in another local authority area, 2007-08, England

	Number of lettings
2007-08	2,800

1. Figures are reported from 1 April to 31March.
2. Mutual exchanges are not included.
3. Figures include lettings general needs and supported housing.

Source:
Continuous Recording of Lettings, Cambridge weighted method 2007/08

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for City of York of 4 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1062W, on homelessness, on what date he expects to publish data on new lets for 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [299182]

Mr. Ian Austin: Numbers of new lets are reported by local authorities annually, through the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA), covering the period 1 April to 31 March. Figures for 2008-09 will be published on 26 November 2009.

Social Rented Housing: Standards

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been transferred from the ALMO decent homes programme budget in order to fund new build in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [299156]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 13 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 776W.

Valuation Office: Buildings

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment the Valuation Office Agency made of the rateable value of its offices on Shaftesbury Avenue, London in *(a)* the 2005 Ratings List and *(b)* the latest provisional estimates for the draft 2010 Ratings List. [294461]

Barbara Follett: The 2005 list rateable values and the 2010 draft list rateable values for all properties in England and Wales are shown on the VOA website:

www.voa.gov.uk

Wind Power: Market Harborough

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the scale of hazard presented by the erection of wind turbines in proximity to the high pressure gas distribution pipe line by HM Prison Gartree near Market Harborough. [298282]

Mr. Ian Austin: Where a planning authority is considering a planning application for wind turbines an assessment would be made by the planning authority as part of their determination of the planning application.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance he has provided to planning authorities considering applications to erect wind turbines on requirements not to introduce unacceptable hazards to local communities. [298265]

Mr. Ian Austin: We have set out a comprehensive framework of national planning policy and guidance on renewable energy which includes our Planning Policy Statements (PPS) on climate change and renewable energy. This is in addition to the body of guidance for planning authorities on handling planning applications that will also be relevant to proposals to erect wind turbines. The companion guide supporting the PPS on renewable energy provides detailed advice to planning authorities on the issues that might arise in considering applications for wind turbines including on matters relating to safety.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Offences against Children: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Solicitor-General whether guidance is provided to the Crown Prosecution Service on the relationship between viewing online child abuse images and child abuse. [298912]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) publishes legal guidance for prosecutors on the prosecution of offences involving child abuse, and indecent images of children. I can confirm that the child abuse guidance makes reference to offences relating to indecent images of children. The guidance is available on the CPS's website:

www.cps.gov.uk

Margaret Moran: To ask the Solicitor-General how much and what proportion of the budget of the Law Officers' Department for 2009-10 has been allocated to the prosecution of offences of viewing online images of child abuse; and if she will make a statement. [298913]

The Solicitor-General: Although the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is able to identify the number of offences of possessing an indecent photograph of a child and of making an indecent photograph of a child which proceeded to a first hearing, it is not possible to identify from CPS sources how many of these offences related to online images and how many to images in other media.

It is also not possible to assess how much the CPS spends on prosecuting offences of viewing online child abuse images generally.

CPS areas are allocated budgets taking into account their overall caseload and other pressures. The budget allocation process does not seek to assess caseload at a detailed level in terms of individual offences.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefit Rules: Care homes

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will take steps to ensure that residents of care homes have regular access to benefits and pension advice from her Department. [illegible]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 2 November* [illegible] The Pension Disability and Carers Service operates Local Service, a visiting arm, working in local communities to support vulnerable customers who cannot access the Department's services through the other routes. Local Service provides face to face contact in a customer's home giving a holistic service which covers full benefit entitlement discussions and provides help with completion of benefit applications.

To raise older people's awareness of what is available to them Local Service joins up a wide range of services by working in partnership with local authorities and voluntary organisations; increasingly through integrated teams. Through this local partnership working, these teams also provide benefit entitlement take-up activity and benefit advice information sessions within care and residential homes.

Crisis Loans

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of calls made to crisis loan application lines at each benefit delivery centre were answered in each of the last six months; and if she will make a statement; [298851]

(2) how many and what proportion of calls made to crisis loan application lines which were answered after a wait of *(a)* under one minute, *(b)* between one and two minutes, *(c)* between two and three minutes, *(d)* between three and four minutes, *(e)* between four and five minutes, *(f)* between five and six minutes and *(g)* over six minutes. [298852]

Helen Goodman: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked the acting chief executive to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how many and what proportion of calls made to crisis loan application lines at each benefit delivery centre were answered in each of the last six months and how many and what proportion of calls made to crisis loan application lines were answered after a wait of *(a)* under one minute, *(b)* between one and two minutes, *(c)* between two and three minutes, *(d)* between three and four minutes, *(e)* between four and five minutes, *(f)* between five and six minutes and *(g)* over six minutes. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The following tables provide information on the total number and proportion of calls to Crisis loan application lines answered at each Jobcentre Plus Benefit Delivery Centre and Contact Centre Directorate in each of the last six months.

A breakdown of the total number and proportion of calls to Crisis Loan application lines answered within each time interval is not available.

The average waiting time for Crisis Loan customers during the first 6 months of the operational year (since April 2009) was 11 minutes and 40 seconds. Average wait times have shown significant improvement in recent weeks, falling to under 6 minutes by the start of October 2009. During October, Jobcentre Plus has consistently answered over 80% of Crisis Loan calls offered and will continue to strive towards further improvements.

Annex A: Jobcentre Plus crisis loans telephony performance, by site, April to June

Calls answered

	April		*May*		*June*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
CCD Virtual Network	118,272	68.6	165,750	68.5	183,624	71.6
Basildon BDC	4,396	83.3	5,969	77.7	5,742	80.7
Bradford East BDC	2,621	75.2	3,894	77.2	3,912	77.3
Bristol BDC	5,784	41.4	11,525	56.7	12,393	74.7

Annex A: Jobcentre Plus crisis loans telephony performance, by site, April to June

						Calls answered
	April		*May*		*June*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Chesterfield Bestwell House JCP	2,956	82.7	4,237	82.9	3,106	77.5
Chorlton BDC	3,029	73.4	3,626	72.2	2,980	69.7
Glasgow Springburn BDC	8,865	77.5	10,380	71.8	8,957	73.9
Inverness	4,864	79.2	7,014	72.9	6,411	73.1
Liverpool Belle Vale	14,613	83.4	21,047	89.3	20,506	88.2
Llanelli	2,242	69.8	2,679	66.4	2,636	64.7
London SF (Ilford and Balham)	15,602	83.0	22,227	83.2	24,301	83.3
Milton Keynes BDC	7,041	77.6	9,380	75.5	9,886	76.4
Newcastle BDC	4,582	70.6	6,352	77.9	6,730	69.6
Newport BDC	5,234	78.5	6,903	78.3	6,672	76.2
Norwich BDC	4,016	79.6	5,686	81.7	5,507	80.8
Nottingham BDC	2,791	79.4	2,939	70.1	2,372	65.7
Perry Barr BDC	7,312	80.0	7,689	73.5	8,033	78.5
Sheffield BDC	5,622	69.2	8,120	71.3	9,142	74.4
Stockton BDC	2,720	70.5	3,720	67.3	3,657	66.7
Sunderland BDC	3,988	84.5	4,907	80.7	5,102	79.6
Jobcentre Plus total	226,550	71.6	314,210	71.8	331,704	74.2

Annex B: Jobcentre Plus crisis loans telephony performance, by site, July to September

						Calls answered
	July		*August*		*September*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
CCD Virtual Network	240,822	75.1	203,360	72.0	235,724	80.6
Basildon BDC	4,096	71.7	4,964	83.1	4,560	82.5
Bradford East BDC	4,429	78.6	3,042	79.0	2,822	79.9
Bristol BDC	16,743	76.2	13,957	78.7	16,072	81.5
Chesterfield Bestwell House JCP	4,188	81.9	2,588	80.1	2,531	85.4
Chorlton BDC	5,339	77.6	4,509	79.5	3,563	78.6
Glasgow Springburn BDC	14,219	82.1	13,502	85.5	14,514	82.5
Inverness	8,102	69.9	6,533	65.8	6,075	67.7
Liverpool Belle Vale	27,245	90.7	20,428	93.0	20,190	90.9
Llanelli	2,651	66.2	2,270	71.3	2,062	69.8
London SF (Ilford and Balham)	29,221	85.0	21,996	87.2	23,931	87.1
Milton Keynes BDC	12,686	79.3	10,111	76.5	8,564	78.4
Newcastle BDC	9,273	82.9	7,380	83.4	7,247	83.3
Newport BDC	7,903	79.5	5,906	79.6	5,603	78.5
Norwich BDC	6,344	78.8	4,724	77.0%5,174	81.5	
Nottingham BDC	2,776	67.6	2,126	65.7	1,981	87.8
Perry Barr BDC	10,098	81.4	9,593	85.6	9,003	71.7
Sheffield BDC	10,694	75.1	8,086	78.2	8,765	75.1
Stockton BDC	4,742	67.8	5,037	81.6	5,711	62.8
Sunderland BDC	5,760	82.0	5,380	84.4	7,346	84.0
Jobcentre Plus total	436,129	77.2	355,340	76.0	391,425	81.0

Annex C: Jobcentre Plus crisis loans telephony performance, by site, total for April to September

		Calls answered
	Number	*Percentage*
CCD Virtual Network	1,155,560	73.3
Basildon BDC	30,527	79.5
Bradford East BDC	20,720	77.9
Bristol BDC	76,414	60.3
Chesterfield Bestwell House JCP	19,686	81.7
Chorlton BDC	23,066	75.5
Glasgow Springburn BDC	70,417	79.4

Annex C: Jobcentre Plus crisis loans telephony performance, by site, total for April to September

		Calls answered
	Number	*Percentage*
Inverness	39,096	70.9
Liverpool Belle Vale	124,109	89.5
Llanelli	14,540	67.8
London SF (Ilford and Balham)	137,358	84.9
Milton Keynes BDC	57,598	77.3
Newcastle BDC	41,492	78.3
Newport BDC	38,401	78.4
Norwich BDC	31,449	79.9
Nottingham BDC	14,985	71.6

Annex C: Jobcentre Plus crisis loans telephony performance, by site, total for April to September

	Calls answered	
	Number	*Percentage*
Perry Barr BDC	51,726	78.4
Sheffield BDC	50,349	74.1
Stockton BDC	25,595	73.2
Sunderland BDC	32,473	82.5
Jobcentre Plus total	2,055,358	75.6

Note: All figures represent crisis loans telephony performance between 20 April 2009, the first date for which comprehensive MI was available and 2 October 2009

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many first class flights were taken by each Minister in her Department in 2008-09; and what the *(a)* origin, *(b)* destination and *(c)* cost was of each such flight. [299915]

Jim Knight: There were no official first-class flights taken by DWP Ministers during 2008-09.

DWP policy is that regardless of grade and length/duration of journey, first-class tickets should not be purchased.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on *(a)* car hire, *(b)* train travel, *(c)* air travel, *(d)* hotels and *(e)* restaurant meals for (i) Ministers and (ii) staff in her Department in each of the last five years. [299973]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested. Separate information on restaurant meals is not available. Such information as is available is in the following tables.

Total expenditure

£ million

	Car hire	*Rail*	*Air*	*Hotel*
2004-05	n/a	14.0	4.7	12.0
2005-06	n/a	15.6	4.7	12.3
2006-07	1.5	15.6	3.1	11.5
2007-08	1.5	17.6	3.8	11.6
2008-09	2.3	19.8	3.5	12.3

n/a = Not available

Ministerial expenditure

£

	Car hire	*Rail*	*Air*	*Hotel*
2007-08	0	17,530	30,115	1,631
2008-09	0	21,426	32,947	1,936

n/a = Not available

Information is not available for Ministers prior to 2007-08.

Expenditure relating to the use of the Government Car Service is not included in the figures quoted above. Information about the cost of ministerial cars is published each year in a written ministerial statement. The relevant information can be found at the following links:

2005-06 and 2006-07:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070726/wmstext/70726m0004.htm#07072644000046

2007-08:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080722/wmstext/80722m0008.htm#08072253000045

2008-09:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090716/wmstext/90716m0009.htm#09071651000039

The figures provided should be read in the context of a Department of over 100,000 staff operating from over 1,000 locations across Great Britain.

It is also worth noting that the increase in car hire expenditure has been more than offset by a reduction in 'grey fleet' mileage and expenditure. The reduction in such mileage from 2007-08 to 2008-09 was 8.8 million miles, representing a £3.6 million reduction in expenditure.

Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code" and the "Civil Service Management Code".

Departmental Sick Leave

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many sick days have been taken by staff of her Department in each of the last five years; and what the cost of such absences was in each such year. [290411]

Jim Knight: The available information is in the following table. The figures reflect data currently recorded on the Department's personnel computer system.

The Department has reduced the number of days sick leave taken by its staff to 8.5 days per staff year, resulting in a cut of sick pay as a proportion of total salary from 3 per cent. to 2 per cent. in three years.

Further reducing sickness absence and its associated cost is a top priority for the Department.

	Sick days taken by staff	*Sick days as a percentage of working days available*	*Cost of absences (£ million)*
2008-09	849,446	3.95	59.8
2007-08	1,052,557	4.40	75.1
2006-07	1,256,157	4.70	90.5
2005-06	1,335,694	4.25	n/a
2004-05	1,702,691	5.05	n/a

Notes: 1. The cost of absences shown is the total amount of salary paid during periods of sick leave. 2. Cost data for 2004-05 and 2005-06 were not available centrally and could be calculated only at disproportionate costs.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on overnight accommodation for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials while overseas in each of the last three years. [294482]

Jim Knight: The Department for Work and Pensions spent the following amounts on overnight accommodation for staff while overseas in each of the last three years:

	Hotel (£)
April 2006 to March 2007	83,263
April 2007 to March 2008	112,427
April 2008 to March 2009	166,821

The information for Ministers is not available in the format requested.

Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively and the Cabinet Office provides the annual list of overseas travel over £500 undertaken by Ministers. The 2008-09 list was published on 16 July and can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

Disadvantaged: Merkinch

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Highland ward of Merkinch received from the deprived areas funding 2008-09; and how much it is expected to receive in 2009-10. [297820]

Jim Knight: For the period 2008-09, the Highland ward of Merkinch received £24,000 of deprived areas funding. For the period 2009-10, negotiations are ongoing with a provider and as yet no money has been allocated.

Fuel Poverty

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of households have been living in fuel poverty in *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* England in each year since 1997. [297570]

Mr. Kidney: I have been asked to reply.

The most recently available fuel poverty statistics relate to 2007.

Regional data are available from 2003 only. The following table shows the figures for Yorkshire and the Humber region:

Yorkshire and the Humber

	Number of fuel poor households (Thousand)	*Percentage of all households*
2003	180	8.6
2004	163	7.7
2005	189	8.8
2006	273	12.7
2007	333	15.5

The following table shows fuel poverty estimates for England from 1996 to 2007. Fuel poverty figures are not available for 1997, 1999 and 2000.

England

	Number of fuel poor households (Million)	*Percentage of all households*
1996	5.1	25.0
1998[1]	3.4	—
2001	1.7	8.1
2002[1]	1.4	—
2003	1.2	5.9
2004	1.2	5.9
2005	1.5	7.2
2006	2.4	11.5
2007	2.8	13.2

[1] Estimates of the total number of households for 1998 and 2002 are not available on a consistent basis with other years.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to ensure that local housing allowance claimants pass their local housing allowance on to their landlords; and if she will make a statement. [299092]

Helen Goodman: Safeguards are in place that enable local authorities to make payments of the local housing allowance to landlords in circumstances where tenants are likely to have difficulty in managing their rent payments. In addition, payment is made direct to the landlord where the tenant is in arrears of eight weeks or more.

We are satisfied that these safeguards will ensure that customers do not fall into unmanageable difficulties and that their rental payments will be met. The Department is closely monitoring how the local housing allowance is working in practice and is undertaking a wide ranging review of the scheme over its first two years.

Housing Benefit: Council Tax Benefit

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many single parent households were in receipt of *(a)* housing and *(b)* council tax benefit in each year since 1997. [297281]

Helen Goodman: The available information is shown in the following table.

Number of single parent households receiving housing benefit/council tax benefit: Great Britain, May 1997 to May 2003

	Number of single parent households receiving housing benefit	*Number of single parent households receiving council tax benefit*
May 1997	954,000	978,000
May 1998	933,000	964,000
May 1999	919,000	923,000
May 2000	851,000	843,000
May 2001	790,000	780,000
May 2002	773,000	761,000
May 2003	803,000	823,000

Notes:

1. The figures are based on a 1 per cent. sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.
3. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
4. Council tax benefit figures exclude second adult rebates.
5. These figures are published on the Department's website at http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/hbctb_arc.asp
6. Figures for May 2004 are unavailable as they are currently being revised.
7. From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed HB/CTB data electronically from local authorities, and a range of tables has been published as national statistics since August 2008. However, until more of the new data have been fully quality assured to national statistics standards, some detail is only available from the 1 per cent. sample data.

Source:

Housing benefit and council tax benefit management information system, annual 1 per cent. sample, taken in May 1997-2003.

Incapacity Benefit

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency have received incapacity benefit in each year since 1997. [297198]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is in the table.

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants at February in each year since 1997

As at February	*England*	*North East*	*Tees Valley Jobcentre Plus District*	*Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency*
1997	2,233,600	196,080	46,300	6,200
1998	2,214,600	191,700	46,600	9,000
1999	2,168,700	185,700	44,000	9,500
2000	2,138,000	184,210	43,880	9,710
2001	2,214,930	188,610	45,180	9,960
2002	2,217,260	187,910	44,860	9,870
2003	2,247,980	186,790	45,670	9,980
2004	2,256,210	183,660	45,470	9,990
2005	2,246,460	180,030	44,940	9,940
2006	2,209,710	172,940	43,690	9,830
2007	2,180,970	166,790	41,920	9,630
2008	2,151,900	159,850	40,590	9,400
2009	2,002,400	146,530	37,090	8,950

Notes:
1. Tees Valley Jobcentre Plus district comprises the following local authorities: Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton.
2. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
3. These data do not include claimants of employment and support allowance.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 5 per cent. and 100 per cent. data.

Incapacity Benefit: Norwich

Chloe Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of incapacity benefit (IB) there were in Norwich, North constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007; how many claimants of employment and support allowance (ESA) in the constituency there are now; and how much has been spent on (i) IB in each year between 1997 and 2008 and (ii) ESA since it was introduced. [296158]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the tables.

Number of claimants of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance in the Norwich, North constituency at the end of February 1997 and February 2007

	Number
February 1997	3,900
February 2007	3,960

Notes:
i. The total number of incapacity benefit claimants is collected for each quarter. Some individuals are claimants for more than one quarter and would be counted more than once if the figures for all four quarters were added together. Therefore the figures provided show the number of claimants there were at the end of February for 1997 and 2007.
ii. Figures from 1997 have been rounded to the nearest 100.
iii. Figures from 2007 have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, 5 per cent. and 100 per cent. data.

Number of claimants of employment and support allowance in the Norwich, North constituency at the end of February 2009

	Number
February 2009	270

Notes:
i. The end of February 2009 is the latest date for which Employment and Support Allowance claimant figures are available.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance expenditure for Great Britain and the Norwich, North constituency

	£ million, nominal terms		*£ million, 2009-10 prices*	
	Great Britain	*Norwich North*	*Great Britain*	*Norwich North*
1997-98	8,411.1	10.4	11,036.5	13.6
1998-99	8,234.8	10.6	10,580.2	13.6
1999-00	7,796.3	10.6	9,823.7	13.4
2000-01	7,780.4	10.7	9,676.7	13.3
2001-02	7,788.7	11.1	9,475.8	13.5
2002-03	7,715.6	11.0	9,093.7	13.0
2003-04	7,660.2	10.9	8,778.2	12.5
2004-05	7,580.4	11.2	8,456.7	12.5
2005-06	7,550.1	11.3	8,253.9	12.4
2006-07	7,469.7	11.2	7,948.4	11.9
2007-08	7,556.5	11.5	7,822.9	11.9
2008-09	7,403.6	11.5	7,477.6	11.6

Notes:
i. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred thousand.
ii. Figures converted to 2009-10 prices using GDP deflators published by HM Treasury at Budget 2009
iii. Nominal figures represent actual expenditure and 2009-10 prices represent what the expenditure is worth in today's prices.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Statistical and Accounting Data

Employment and support allowance expenditure for Great Britain and the Norwich, North constituency

	£ million, nominal terms		*£ million, 2009-10 prices*	
	Great Britain	*Norwich North*	*Great Britain*	*Norwich North*
2008-09	127.3	n/a	128.6	n/a

n/a = Not available
Notes:
i. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred thousand.
ii. Figures converted to 2009-10 prices using GDP deflators published by HM Treasury at Budget 2009.
iii. Nominal figures represent actual expenditure and 2009-10 prices represent what the expenditure is worth in today's prices.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Statistical and Accounting Data

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims for osteoarthritis of the knee have been received from coal miners and former coal miners since osteoarthritis of the knee became a prescribed industrial disease; how many have resulted in an award of industrial injury disablement benefit; and how many have resulted in an appeal to a medical appeal tribunal. [295708]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 28 October 2009]:* The most recent available information is that 25,247 claims have been received for osteoarthritis of the knee since the condition was added to the list of prescribed industrial diseases on 13 July 2009.

At this early stage, 3,411 claims have been processed, of which 858 have received an award of industrial injuries disablement benefit, or an increase of industrial injuries disablement benefit.

113 appeals have been received; it is not possible to specify how many of these are appeals on medical grounds.

We are currently looking into arrangements to publish this information as official statistics.

Industrial Injuries: Disablement Benefit

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will bring forward legislative proposals to extend to *(a)* those who have been employed to maintain or repair boilers and *(b)* others in occupations which involve working in confined spaces, the provisions which relate to industrial injuries disablement benefit for those coal miners diagnosed with osteoarthritis of the knee. [297184]

Jonathan Shaw: The Industrial Injuries Advisory Council (IIAC) is the scientific body with the statutory role of advising Ministers on the list of prescribed diseases under the Industrial Injures Disablement Benefit scheme, and in particular which diseases and occupations should be prescribed for industrial injuries disablement benefit purposes.

IIAC, through its research working group and scientific adviser, continually reviews the current scientific literature to see if the necessary level of proof may have become available with regard to diseases and occupations not currently included or if further consideration is required in respect of those already listed.

IIAC will revisit any subject if new, sound and consistent scientific evidence becomes available, and will be happy to receive any such evidence. The Government will give careful consideration to any advice the council may provide, and consider legislative proposals in the light of that advice.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the ratio of personal advisers to jobseeker's allowance claimants in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* each region of England, *(c)* Wales, *(d)* Scotland and *(e)* Northern Ireland has been in each month since May 2009; and if she will make a statement. [294033]

Jim Knight: Jobcentre Plus manages its work force in a way that makes direct comparison between headcount and work load difficult in each geographic region. For example, adviser functions will also include non-jobseeker's allowance customers like those in receipt of incapacity benefit, and employment and support allowance.

Available information, for Great Britain only, is shown in the following table.

Information regarding Northern Ireland is a matter for the Northern Ireland Office.

Ratio of personal advisers to jobseeker's allowance claimants by each region in England, Wales and Scotland in May, June and July 2009

	Ratio of jobseeker's allowance claimants to staff		
Government office region	*May 2009*	*June 2009*	*July 2009*
East	177.2	156.9	146.5
East Midlands	174.8	155.2	144.9
London	130.0	132.4	128.7
North East	130.2	121.6	115.9
North West	135.6	127.1	120.6
Scotland	126.5	116.6	114.6
South East	167.5	160.8	156.5
South West	156.3	141.0	130.4
Wales	148.9	141.1	127.7
West Midlands	164.5	157.2	153.5
Yorkshire and the Humber	162.3	141.2	134.1

Notes:
1. Figures for Jobcentre Plus staff relate to Jobcentre Plus staff as a whole and not those deployed against jobseeker's allowance customers/claims.
2. Ratio of jobseeker's allowance claimants to staff are rounded to one decimal place.

Sources:
DWP WPLS 100 per cent. data and Jobcentre Plus Human Resources.

The table shows a level of variation across the country between personal advisers and jobseeker's allowance customers. This is to be expected and is due to variations in the Jobcentre Plus operating model. The level of use of external providers is an example. Variations in other adviser work loads not directly linked to the jobseeker's allowance claimant count will be another factor.

Jobcentre Plus: Training

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training is provided to Jobcentre Plus staff to make medical assessments on individuals' fitness for work; and what criteria are used for such assessments. [293626]

Jim Knight: Jobcentre Plus staff do not undertake formal medical assessments on individuals' fitness for work.

Medical services was outsourced to a private company in 1998. The current medical service contractor is Atos Healthcare Medical Services.

Atos Healthcare Medical Services carry out the work capability assessment as part of the process of deciding entitlement to employment and support allowance. They provide medical evidence which is used by Jobcentre Plus Decision Makers, in addition to any other medical evidence supplied by the customer, in order to determine entitlement to benefit.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the reasons are for the lower levels of jobseeker's allowance for people who are *(a)* single and under the age of 24 and *(b)* lone parents under the age of 18. [293040]

Jim Knight: Jobseeker's Allowance is paid at a lower rate to single people under 25 as the majority of 16 to 24 year-olds do not live independently and may legitimately be regarded as having lower living costs than those aged 25 and over. In addition, lower benefit rates for young people reflect the realities of the labour market where earnings tend to increase with age. It is vital that benefit rates do not erode work incentives for this age group.

Similar considerations also apply to lone parents under the age of 18.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Employment Schemes

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 160W, on jobseeker's allowance: employment schemes, whether work trials are undertaken with employers which are not offering full-time positions; and if she will make a statement. [297381]

Jim Knight: To be eligible for a work trial the vacancy has to be for at least 16 hours per week and the hours worked during the trial period must reflect those of the vacancy. We seek assurance from the employer on these points but we do not keep data on the actual number of weekly hours of each trial.

Jobseeker's Allowance: North West

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average duration of a jobseeker's allowance claim was in each local authority area in the North West in each of the last *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* five years. [296438]

Jim Knight: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of jobseeker's allowance claimants in *(a)* total and *(b)* each local authority area in the North West had previously applied unsuccessfully for employment support allowance. [296440]

Jim Knight: The information is not available.

Local Government Services

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her Department's policy is on participating in the Total Place initiative with local councils. [298441]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP's policy is to support the Total Place initiative with local councils and to participate in the pilots, in particular those with a focus on DWP's business areas. DWP has put in place appropriate systems to respond to Total Place and DWP Ministers and officials participate in cross-Whitehall governance arrangements. DWP commits to look at the proposals that emerge from the Total Place pilots.

Brief background

Area initiatives and strategy division co-ordinate the Total Place work within DWP.

Mark Fisher is the Whitehall Champion for the Bradford Total Place pilot.

Relevant DWP directors are meeting with Mark Fisher on the 11 November to consider the emerging proposals from the Total Place pilots.

The DWP working group on Total Place meets monthly and membership consists of officials from across the Department and JCP.

Local Housing Allowance

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of local housing allowance recipients who are in receipt of the local housing allowance rate for a five bedroom property; and what the rate for a five bedroom property is in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* broad market rental area. [298870]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* Information on the number of local housing allowance recipients in receipt of the local housing allowance for a five bedroom property is not available.

Details of local housing allowance rates for broad rental market areas and local authorities, including the rate for a five bedroom property, is available publicly at

https://lha-direct.voa.gov.uk

This information is updated by the Valuation Office Agency each month.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people in receipt of housing allowance are in rent arrears; [299163]

(2) what percentage of people in receipt of *(a)* rent allowance and *(b)* housing benefit are in rent arrears. [299164]

Helen Goodman: The information is not available.

Mesothelioma: Death

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have died from mesothelioma in *(a)* South Tyneside, *(b)* the north-east and *(c)* the UK in each year since 2006. [298398]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table shows the number of mesothelioma deaths for South Tyneside, the north-east and for the United Kingdom for 2006 and 2007 (the latest year for which data are available).

		Number
	2006[1]	2007[1]
South Tyneside	10	8
North East	118	136
United Kingdom	2,108	2,192

[1] Provisional.

Sources: 1. Health and Safety Executive; British Mesothelioma Register

2. Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland; deaths recorded as mesothelioma as primary or secondary cause of death.

New Deal Schemes

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people who have received assistance through New Deal schemes to undertake voluntary work or training subsequently entered employment lasting five weeks or longer. [294060]

Jim Knight: The information is not held in the exact format requested. However the first table shows the number of people (in thousands) who have left the new deal for young people, from periods of voluntary work or training, up to the latest date for which figures are available. The second table shows the number of people (in thousands) who have left the new deal 25 Plus, from periods of training, up to the latest date for which figures are available.

Last activity under new deal for young people	*Voluntary sector*	*Full-time educational training*
New deal leavers—destination was sustained work	29.30	41.34
New deal leavers—destination was employment and benefits	1.20	1.71
New deal leavers—destination was benefits	11.60	16.46
Other new deal leavers—(including destination unknown)	17.66	31.86

Last activity under new deal 25 plus	*Training*
New deal leavers—destination was sustained work	15.02
New deal leavers—destination was employment and benefits	0.57
New deal leavers—destination was benefits	12.19
Other new deal leavers—(including destination unknown)	12.85

Notes:

1. Figures are displayed in thousands, and rounded to the nearest 10.
2. The destination from new deal is measured within two weeks of leaving new deal, using information from the Work and Pensions longitudinal study (WPLS).
3. The latest available information is to February 2009.
4. A sustained job is defined as a job from which a participant does not return to jobseeker's allowance within 13 weeks.
5. The total for new deal 25 plus training includes those people whose last activity on new deal 25 plus was recorded as 'Basic Employability Training/Basic Skills', 'IAP Training' or 'Education and Training Opportunities'. The new deal for young people and new deal 25 plus are the only schemes which have the options stage.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate. The figures are available at http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Social Security Benefits

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to respond to Question 291499, on social security benefits, tabled on 9 October 2009. [297540]

Jim Knight: I replied to the hon. Member's question number 291449 on social security benefits on 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 733W.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the monetary cost to her Department has been of implementing voice risk analysis technology for the detection of benefit fraud in each year since its introduction. [293060]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 20 October 2009]*: The Department has not yet introduced voice risk analysis technology, but it has been running pilots to test the effectiveness of the technology since 2007-08.

In 2007-08 a total of £460,000 was paid directly to the seven local authorities piloting voice risk analysis, and £240,333 was spent within the Department for Work and Pensions for a pilot conducted in Jobcentre Plus.

In 2008-09 a total of £1,734,314.07 was paid directly to the 24 local authorities involved in the second phase of pilots. This second phase of piloting is due to come to an end in December 2009.

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Mr. Ilsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many medical examinations for benefit claimants have taken place outside the 13 week assessment phase in the last two years. [295574]

Jonathan Shaw: The 13-week assessment phase is relevant only for employment and support allowance claims and work capability assessments. Therefore this response is based on data from 27 October 2008 when employment and support allowance was introduced.

Between October 2008 and April 2009 the number of work capability assessments where time from claim start to ATOS advice given was greater than 13 weeks was 113,700.

Customers are able to backdate claims to before they first contact Jobcentre Plus to initiate their claim and backdating was on average two weeks for incapacity benefit and it is expected that this will be the same for employment and support allowance. Therefore, the figures above show the technical time between when the claim was made and the completed work capability assessment, but the true time that Jobcentre Plus and ATOS have to work cases may be shorter.

A more accurate reflection of the time taken to pass through the different parts of the process would be determined by taking into account additional factors, such as the time taken to return paperwork, whether a claimant's condition can be assessed on paper-based evidence alone, whether additional evidence is required and whether a claimant attends their initial appointment or it has to be re-scheduled. This information is not currently available but would provide a fuller answer.

Mr. Ilsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average waiting time was for a medical examination for claimants of employment support allowance in the latest period for which information is available. [295575]

Jonathan Shaw: The latest reliable cohort of employment and support allowance claims were for claims starting in April 2009. We use this cohort to estimate timings for different parts of the assessment process.

Of assessments completed for the April 2009 cohort of employment and support allowance claims, the average time from claim start to the date ATOS advice was provided to Jobcentre Plus is 96 days.

Customers are able to backdate claims to before they first contact Jobcentre Plus to initiate their claim and backdating was on average two weeks for incapacity benefit and it is expected that this will be the same for employment and support allowance. Therefore, the figures above show the technical time between when the claim was made and the completed work capability assessment, but the true time that Jobcentre Plus and ATOS have to work cases may be shorter.

A more accurate reflection of the time taken to pass through the different parts of the process would be determined by taking into account additional factors, such as the time taken to return paperwork, whether a claimant's condition can be assessed on paper-based evidence alone, whether additional evidence is required and whether a claimant attends their initial appointment or it has to be re-scheduled. This information is not currently available but would provide a fuller answer.

State Retirement Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of the payment of the basic state pension to all those reaching the state retirement age in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [298854]

Angela Eagle: The requested information is not available.

Public expenditure plans only cover the period to 2010-11, and long-term expenditure projections beyond that period are currently being updated.

Final spending plans for departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be set in relation to the final annually managed expenditure (AME) forecast at the time of the next spending review, so that both DEL and AME are contained within the constraints set out for total public sector current expenditure and public sector net investment.

That AME forecast will depend on both the latest economic assumptions, and also on the whole policy framework, reflecting the government's key choices over spending priorities. It is therefore not sensible to release any partial views of AME components or any other DEL or AME allocations until we have been through the spending review process.

Updated long-term expenditure projections are scheduled to be published with the pre-Budget report 2009, at which time the requested information should become available.

Unemployment Benefits

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether her Department plans to provide transitional payments to jobseekers who have found work; and if she will make a statement. [298191]

Jim Knight: The Government offer a comprehensive package of transitional payments, through Jobcentre Plus, to support customers returning to work after claiming benefits.

Job Grants are paid automatically to customers who are leaving benefit after a continuous period of 26 weeks and are starting a job that is expected to last at least five weeks and is for at least 16 hours per week, or 24 hours for partners. There are two rates of payment, £100 for single customers and couples without children and £250 for lone parents and couples with children.

Housing benefit and council tax benefit run on is available for the first four weeks in work, to customers who have been claiming a specified benefit continuously for 26 weeks or more when they, or their partner, start remunerative work expected to last at least five weeks.

For homeowners, mortgage interest run on (MIRO) is available for the first four weeks in work, to customers in receipt of a qualifying benefit for 26 weeks or more when they, or their partner, start remunerative work expected to last at least five weeks. The customer must have been in receipt of mortgage/home loan interest or other eligible housing costs before starting work and remain liable to make such payments.

At adviser discretion, eligible customers can be considered for an Advisor Discretion Fund award to cover transitional costs associated with starting work, for example, travel costs, work clothes and tools, and up-front childcare costs for lone parents for the first two weeks of employment.

In Work Credit is an incentive designed to help lone parents, and both lone and couple parents in the New Deal Plus for Lone Parent pilot areas, to make the transition from welfare in to full time work and is paid for a maximum of 52 weeks. This is tax-free and payable on top of any other in-work benefits and tax credits to which the lone parent may be entitled.

It offers a payment of £40 per week, or £60 per week in the London districts, and is payable to eligible lone parents (and both lone and couple parents in the New Deal plus for lone Parent pilot areas) who move into work of more than 16 hours per week, or 24 hours or more for a partner of a Jobseeker's Allowance or Income Support customer in the London districts.

Through the childcare subsidy, lone parents can claim help with the costs for registered childcare whilst they are working less than 16 hours a week up to a maximum of £87.50 per week for one child or £150 per week for two or more children for up to 52 weeks if the job: complies with employment legislation; is for up to 16 hours a week; is waged employment (not voluntary work or work experience); is expected to last for at least five weeks and is undertaken on the recommendation of a personal adviser, as part of an agreed action plan for return to the labour market.

Childcare Assist is available to all New Deal for Lone Parents and New Deal for Partners participants. It allows for the payment of formal or approved childcare for up to five days in the week immediately before the parent starts work. It also leaves them free to undertake activities required in preparation for starting work, without the worry of arranging childcare. Childcare Assist also helps, through financial support, with the transition from welfare to work.

The return to work credit is a work incentive to encourage customers to move into work from incapacity benefits or employment support allowance. The return to work credit offers eligible customers, who find work of at least 16 hours a week, and where certain other eligibility conditions are satisfied, a weekly payment of £40 for up to 52 weeks if their gross annual earnings are below £15,000.

The Rapid Response Service helps employers support their employees faced with redundancy to swiftly find alternative work. The Rapid Response Service funding is available to plug gaps in existing provision and overcome immediate barriers to finding work.

On an ad hoc basis and according to the particular barriers faced by an individual, funding for such things as travel and childcare costs can continue for a short period after someone finds work.

Vacancies

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of vacancies were advertised in job centres in each of the last six months for which figures are available. [290709]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 9 September 2009]*: Available information is shown in the following tables.

Number of job vacancies in Great Britain advertised by Jobcentre Plus in each of the last six months

2009	*Live unfilled vacancies*
February	238,554
March	231,908
April	212,718
May	217,700
June	211,378
July	205,457

Notes:

1. Data are unrounded, and not seasonally adjusted.

2. The Jobcentre Plus data do not cover the whole UK economy. Coverage relates just to vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and as such represent a market share of vacancies throughout the whole economy. This proportion varies over time, according to the occupation of the vacancy and industry of the employer, and by local area. Comprehensive estimates of all job vacancies (not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus) are available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey since April 2001, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.

3. The stocks of live unfilled vacancies reflect more accurately job opportunities available via Jobcentre Plus. In the case of unfilled vacancies, use of the figures on live vacancies is recommended (i.e. excluding suspended vacancies), and this is the default option. Live vacancies may still include some vacancies which have already been filled or are otherwise no longer open to recruits, due to natural lags in procedures for following up vacancies with employers.

4. Jobcentre Plus figures are published at: www.nomisweb.co.uk

Source:

Jobcentre Plus labour market system.

Office for National Statistics: UK Vacancy Survey

	Level of vacancies
December 2008 to February 2009	445,000
January to March 2009	444,700
February to April 2009	451,200
March to May 2009	444,200
April to June 2009	434,400
May to July 2009	437,700

Notes:

1. Data are rounded to the nearest hundred, displayed in thousands and are seasonally adjusted three-month averages.

2. Excludes agriculture, forestry and fishing.

3. April, May and June data on the ONS monthly vacancies estimate have been revised and July data are provisional.

4. ONS monthly vacancies estimates published at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/LatestData.xls

Source:

Office for National Statistics Vacancy Survey.

We do not have a recent estimate of the proportion of vacancies in the UK economy advertised at Jobcentre Plus. There have been some one-off surveys that have estimated the Jobcentre Plus share of all vacancies. In 2002, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) used one such survey to estimate the proportion of total vacancies advertised at jobcentres at 44 per cent. Allowing for sampling variation, the ratio was likely to be in the range of around a third to a half. However, this estimate is likely to have changed over time.

Although we have estimates of the total number of vacancies in the UK economy from the ONS Vacancy Survey, the data from Jobcentre Plus and the ONS Vacancy Survey are not directly comparable, and so should not be used together to produce such an estimate. The Vacancy Survey is a sample-based survey of businesses in the UK and is seasonally adjusted, whereas the Jobcentre Plus data are administrative data that are subject to a high level of seasonality. In addition, there are coverage issues, with the Vacancy Survey covering only civilian vacancies and excluding agriculture, forestry and fishing, whereas the Jobcentre Plus data include non-civilian vacancies. Both measures are snap-shots of the number of opportunities available at a particular point in time and do not reflect the dynamism of the labour market that sees thousands of new job vacancies come up every day.

Vetting: Young People

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she made of the effect on the employment prospects of young jobseekers of spent convictions for minor cautions being disclosed during enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks. [297952]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available.

Voluntary Work

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of *(a)* the average number of hours volunteered per week and *(b)* the total number of hours volunteered by participants in the voluntary option of her Department's six month offer. [297349]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the average length of volunteering placements under her Department's six month offer. [297434]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available.

Welfare to Work

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria regarding participation on the part of those with *(a)* mental health disorders, *(b)* alcohol-related problems and *(c)* drug addiction there are in contracts between her Department and private sector welfare-to-work providers. [296824]

Jim Knight: Welfare to Work Employment Programme contracts contain terms and conditions which include a requirement for providers to conform to current equality and diversity legislation. Requirements in respect of particular customer groups are contained within individual programme specifications.

Some programmes are more closely linked to a particular customer group: Workstep, Work Preparation, and Residential Training Colleges programmes support customers with a wide range of disabilities. However, some providers do have particular expertise in respect to people with mental health conditions.

Across the country there are work preparation contracts specifically designed to deliver support to customers with mental health problems. Similarly, there are Workstep providers with a background in supporting individuals with mental health conditions, but all Workstep providers are expected to be able to help people with a wide range of barriers arising from their disability. Although there are no residential training colleges who deal specifically with customers with a mental health problem, all colleges are able to offer such support.

Progress to Work is a voluntary programme, which aims to help unemployed and inactive former drugs mis-users into work. It is delivered across all districts in England, Scotland and Wales.

Progress to Work provides support for customers who have made sufficient progress in their recovery to be drug free or stabilised, but their history of drug mis-use is a significant factor in preventing them from gaining employment or staying in work.

Progress to Work-LinkUP aims to build on Progress to Work, and help a broader range of disadvantaged customers than just Progress to Work. The specific target group are those who have the following disadvantages: homelessness, ex-offending and alcohol abuse.

As with Progress to Work, Progress to Work-LinkUP aims to tackle the barriers to employment for these groups by helping customers to find work, or develop them in preparation for work.

Winter Fuel Payments: Pensioners

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the saving to the Exchequer of increasing the age of entitlement to winter fuel payments to 65 years in each of the next five financial years. [297548]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 3 November 2009]*: Increasing the age of entitlement of winter fuel payments to 65 in each of the next five financial years would result in the estimated savings outlined in the following table.

	Savings (£ million)
2010-11	480
2011-12	420
2012-13	340
2013-14	270
2014-15	220

Notes:

1. Savings are modelled on increasing age of entitlement to winter fuel payments to 65 by 2020, against a scenario where age entitlement to winter fuel payments increases to 65 in 2010-11. Modelling assumes anyone 60-64 currently receiving winter fuel payment would no longer receive it.

2. Savings are based on winter fuel payments baseline rates of £200 for households with those aged between 60 and 79.

3. Savings are for each financial year and become smaller as the age of entitlement increases under current legislation.

4. Expenditure rounded to the nearest £10 million and are in 2009-10 price term.

Work Experience

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many work experience placements in each work sector were available in each of the last 24 months. [293592]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available. Existing schemes do not collect data centrally.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects to answer question 288473, on Jobcentre Plus, tabled by the hon. Member for Northavon for answer on 20 July 2009. [296517]

Jim Knight: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 729W.

CABINET OFFICE

Cancer

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she has made of the number of people aged *(a)* 18 years and over, *(b)* 60 years and over and *(c)* 85 years and over who were diagnosed with cancer in (i) England and (ii) Yorkshire and the Humber strategic health authority in each year since 1997. [298144]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking about the number of people aged (a) 18 years old and over, (b) 60 years old and over and (c) 85 years old and over who were diagnosed with cancer in (i) England and (ii) Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority in each year since 1997. [298144]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2007. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

The table attached provides the number of newly diagnosed cases of cancer in (i) England and (ii) Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority, for each year since 1997 to 2007, for people aged (a) 18 to 59 years, (b) 60 to 84 years, and (c) 85 years and over.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of all cancers 1997[1]-2007[2]

	England[3]		
	Age 18-59	*Age 60-84*	*Age 85 +*
1997	53,372	144,678	22,556
1998	53,514	143,828	23,137
1999	55,788	147,955	23,801
2000	56,073	147,700	24,112
2001	57,496	148,995	24,567
2002	56,765	148,282	23,587
2003	58,299	151,504	23,152
2004	59,837	155,023	22,836
2005	60,463	155,908	24,070
2006	60,532	155,253	24,912
2007	60,049	157,948	25,862

	Yorkshire and Humberside strategic health authority[3]		
	Age 18-59	*Age 60-84*	*Age 85 +*
1997	5,407	15,268	2,154
1998	5,501	15,049	2,244
1999	5,624	14,941	2,309
2000	5,857	15,920	2,364
2001	5,993	15,740	2,490
2002	5,891	15,993	2,322
2003	6,200	16,247	2,383
2004	6,240	16,447	2,294

	Yorkshire and Humberside strategic health authority[2]		
	Age 18-59	*Age 60-84*	*Age 85 +*
2005	6,582	16,356	2,378
2006	6,268	16,145	2,456
2007	6,224	16,606	2,528

[1] All cancers coded to C00-C97 excluding C44 (non-melanoma skin cancer) in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009-11-10

[3] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many helplines her Department operates; and how much her Department has received from the operation of such helplines in each of the last three years. [294973]

Angela E. Smith: The Office of the Third Sector, part of the Cabinet Office, runs an inquiry line. This has been set up to support the variety of other information sources (publications, websites) available outlining Government's support for the Third Sector. This is a '0207' number from which the Government derive no income.

Delivery Partners may run their own inquiry lines in certain cases, for example the Community Development Foundation (CDF) in relation to Grassroots Grants and the Hardship Fund. However, neither the CDF nor my Department receives any income from the operation of these lines.

Google Adword Online Advertising Keywords

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for which Google Adword on-line advertising keywords her Department has paid in the last 12 months. [290154]

Tessa Jowell: The Department has paid under £200 for Google online advertising keywords in the last 12 months. This service was used as part of the initial launch of Building Britain's Future website, and the keywords were based on "Building Britain's Future".

Green Ministers Committee

Colin Challen: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on how many occasions the Green Ministers Committee has met in 2009; and which Ministers attended each such meeting. [298325]

Tessa Jowell: There is currently no 'Green Ministers' Cabinet Committee. Issues relating to energy and the environment would generally be dealt with through ED (Environment and Energy) Committee, or its parent Committee, the Economic Development Committee. A full list of Cabinet Committees, their membership and terms of reference can be found in the Libraries of the House

Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committees, including when and how often they meet, is generally not disclosed, as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Housing

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what *(a)* the lowest quartile of house prices and *(b)* average earnings were in (i) England, (ii) each region of England and (iii) each housing authority in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last five years. [295285]

Mr. Ian Austin: I have been asked to reply.

Lower quartile house prices for England, for regions and for local authorities is available on our website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table-587.xls

A table showing median gross weekly earnings by place of residence for England, for regions in England, and for local and unitary authorities in Yorkshire and the Humber in the last five years has been deposited in the Library of the House. The source for the figures is the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.

Knowledge Archive Database

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the title is of each job within the Central Office of Information (COI) as recorded on the Knowledge Archive database of COI jobs. [290043]

Tessa Jowell: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to reply to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated October 2009:

> As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on the COI Knowledge Archive database (290043).
>
> The Knowledge Archive is a way of filing and categorising the job files in COI and does not in itself contain any information/knowledge. This system is used to search by a numerical system and does not list the title of each job.

Members: Allowances

Alistair Burt: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will request the Committee on Standards in Public Life to place in the Library a copy of each paper relating to the legal advice *(a)* sought and *(b)* received in respect of its inquiry into MPs' expenses and allowances. [298622]

Tessa Jowell: The disclosure of advice received by the Committee on Standards in Public Life is a matter for the committee.

Mesothelioma

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people have been diagnosed with mesothelioma in *(a)* Jarrow Constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 2005. [298399]

Ann Keen: I have been asked to reply.

The information on the number of people who required treatment for mesothelioma is not held centrally. Requested information on count of finished consultant episodes, where the primary diagnosis was mesothelioma is provided in the following table for England, South Tyneside Primary Care Trust (PCT) and the relevant strategic health authorities (SHAs). It should be noted that Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA and County Durham and Tees Valley SHA combined to form the North East SHA in 2006-07. This information is not centrally held for the United Kingdom.

Count of finished consultant episodes where the primary diagnosis was Mesothelioma[1] for selected organisations national health service hospitals. England and activity performed in the Independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS 1997-98 to 2008-09

	England	*North East Strategic Health Authority*	*South Tyneside PCT as PCT of residence*
2008-09	7,349	708	104
2007-08	6,968	735	77
2006-07	6,677	735	69

	England	*Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA as SHA of residence*	*County Durham and Tees Valley SHA as SHA of residence*	*South Tyneside PCT as PCT of residence*
2005-06	6,436	316	303	40
2004-05	5,671	348	242	28
2003-04	5,697	[illegible]	230	56
2002-03	4,685	267	173	53
2001-02	4,663	321	129	59
2000-01	4,442	315	122	57
1999-2000	4,155	401	121	58
1998-99	3,773	373	98	39
1997-98	3,075	186	69	11

Notes:

1. Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)—An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. It should be noted that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

2. Diagnosis (Primary Diagnosis)—The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) dataset and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.

[1] The ICD-10 codes used in this analysis were as follows:

C45 Mesothelioma;

D19 Benign neoplasm of mesothelial tissue

3. Assessing growth through time—HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

4. PCT and SHA Data Quality—PCT and SHA data were added to historic data-years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of Treatment and SHA of Treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of general practitioner (GP) practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.

5. Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA and County Durham and Tees Valley SHA combined to form the North East SHA in 2006-07.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

National School of Government: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much income the National School of Government received for consultancy services in 2008-09. [287739]

Angela E. Smith: This is a matter for the National School of Government. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 83W.

Personal Income

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* average earnings and *(b)* average house price was in each region in each of the last 20 quarters for which figures are available. [298674]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 9 November 2009]*: I have been asked to reply.

A table showing median gross weekly earnings by place of residence by region in each of the last five years is presented in the Library of the House. The source for the figures is the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. Quarterly earnings data by region is unavailable.

Quarterly mean and median house prices by region are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table-581.xls

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/141395.xls

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate the UK Statistics Authority has made of the ratio of female to male earnings in Great Britain. [298741]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the latest estimate is for the ratio of female to male earnings in Great Britain. (298741)

Average levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence.

ONS recently conducted a review of gender pay statistics and found that no single measure could adequately explain the difference in men's and women's pay. ONS's preferred method is to show the pay difference for three measures: all employees, full-time employees and part-time employees.

The figures provided below come from the 2008 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings and show the median hourly earnings, excluding overtime, for female and male employees and the ratio of female to male hourly earnings. The figures provided are for Great Britain.

	Hourly rate (£)		*Ratio*
	Female	*Male*	*Female/male*
Full-time	10.93	12.55	0.871
Part-time	7.50	7.25	1.034
All employees	9.28	12.00	0.773

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was spent in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 on the Enterprise Coaching Scheme; and how many businesses received assistance from the scheme in each of these years. [298130]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Enterprise coaching became available as a service within the Solutions for Business portfolio in March 2009. There are no data on spend for earlier periods or for the month of March 2009. Annual spend data will become available in due course for 2009-10 and subsequent years. The service is aimed at individuals and so future information will refer to individuals rather than businesses who have been assisted.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for how long funding for the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme is estimated to last; and whether he plans to provide further assistance to small and medium sized enterprises after that date. [299084]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Enterprise Finance Guarantee is a temporary loan guarantee scheme available until the end of March 2010. We are considering the future of the scheme beyond March 2010 in the context of the pre-Budget report.

Business: Regulation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the number of jobs in the economy as a result of regulations on business introduced since May 1997; and if he will make a statement. [298271]

Ian Lucas: There has been no assessment of the overall effect of regulations on employment. Many regulations have net benefits for the economy and may therefore lead to positive impacts on the labour market.

Creating the right conditions for businesses to start up, grow and invest requires many elements including a strong and responsive regulatory framework. With the best business environment in Europe, and fifth best in the world, according to the World Bank, the UK already has an effective regulatory system which helps strengthen our society and our economy.

The Government are committed to, and are delivering, an ambitious programme of improving the way they regulate. We know the costs of regulation are a very real concern to businesses, especially in a challenging economic climate, so when we introduce new rules we need to make sure we maximise the benefits to businesses, the economy and society, and ensure the costs are minimised or reduced where possible.

The recently published benefit/cost ratio:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file53280.pdf

is an important step in the better regulation agenda, increasing transparency and inviting greater scrutiny that will help improve the credibility and understanding of our regulatory framework further. The fact that the benefit cost ratio is above 1 indicates that there has been no economic loss which could have caused job losses. This publication, showing that benefits are nearly double the costs of regulation, sets an important benchmark for improving the way that Government regulates.

Charlie Whelan

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2072W, on Derek Draper and Charlie Whelan, what the purpose was of the meeting with Mr. Charlie Whelan on 15 January 2009. [299328]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the right hon. Member to the answers I gave to the hon. Member for Huntingdon (Mr. Djanogly) on 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1047W and 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1522W.

Companies House: Standards

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what targets Companies House set for the time taken to process electronic incorporations in *(a)* July, *(b)* August, *(c)* September and *(d)* October 2009; how many such incorporations were not dealt with within the target time in each such month; and what steps Companies House has taken to deal with such incorporations not handled within target times. [297426]

Ian Lucas: The target Companies House has for the processing of electronic incorporations is 95 per cent. within three working days. This was set out in my statement to the House on 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 69WS.

The percentages of incorporations that did not meet these targets were:

	Percentage
July	4
August	0.3
September	0.05
October	19

The increase in numbers of incorporations failing to meet the target in October was due to the implementation of the Companies Act 2006 and a variety of factors including: data processing issues; customer and staff lack of familiarity with new requirements; and initial issues with system performance.

Steps taken include: assigning resources; identifying and fixing data validation issues; clarifying and communicating policy issues. These steps resulted in incorporations targets being met from 9 October onwards.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many first-class flights were taken by each Minister in his Department in 2008-09; and what the *(a)* origin, *(b)* destination and *(c)* cost was of each such flight. [298760]

Mr. McFadden: Travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

The Department does not hold separate records of the travel undertaken by Ministers as opposed to those undertaken by civil servants. To provide this information would entail disproportionate costs.

Cabinet Office provides an annual list of overseas travel over £500 undertaken by Ministers. The 2008/2009 list was published on 16 July 2009 and can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

Departmental Finance

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department *(a)* has spent since its inception and *(b)* plans to spend in 2010-11 on market research to improve the usability of its website. [294780]

Mr. McFadden: Since its inception in June, the Department has spent £30,474 (ex VAT) on market research to improve the usability of its website. There are no firm plans for such spending in 2010-11 beyond the annual quality and usage measurements mandated by the Central Office of Information.

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department *(a)* has spent since its inception and *(b)* plans to spend in 2010-11 on (i) the design of its website and (ii) other market research for promotional purposes. [294781]

Mr. McFadden: Spend on website design since the creation of BIS is £16,158. There is no anticipated spend on website design in 2010-11.

The following has been spent since the creation of BIS through the Department's strategic marketing team on market research:

	£
Vulnerable workers campaign—Creative research	32,030
Know Your Consumer Rights campaign—research for public relations campaign	6,500
Science: So what? So everything campaign:	
Shape of Jobs to Come (research)	7,500
So Fashion poll (omnibus survey)	500
ICM Online omnibus survey of business leaders	4,860
Questions Kids Ask campaign—omnibus survey	3,500
Total	54,890

Public relations campaigns are used for raising public awareness on specific issues. External contracts are placed taking account of Cabinet Office propriety guidance.

Details of any other spend on market research are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* work for and *(b)* provide assistance to his Department. [297744]

Mr. McFadden: The number of press officers currently at BIS is 28. This combines the Press Offices from the former BERR and former DIUS. The Press Office coordinates all the media handling for the Department's current 10 Ministers.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors his Department's website received in 2008-09. [297746]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills was created on 5 June 2009 by the merger of the former Departments BERR and DIUS. These figures relate to the main websites of the former Departments.

In 2008-09 the BERR website received 35,876,215 page views and 6,317,635 unique visitors.

www.berr.gov.uk

In 2008-09 the DIUS website received 3,182,772 page views and 1,538,348 visitors. The DIUS website proper was not launched until March. Prior to that date DIUS content was split between an interim DIUS website and the BERR website.

www.dius.gov.uk

Other websites operated by the Department are not centrally managed. Information on visitor numbers for these sites is not centrally held and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Reorganisation

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 436-7W, on departmental reorganisation, what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of merging the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to form his Department; and if he will make a statement. [299090]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 28 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 423-4W.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Todd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to implement the efficiency recommendations of the Operational Efficiency programme relating to his Department. [296056]

Mr. McFadden: BIS is fully committed to the Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP) and to support this I have accepted the role of Value for Money Minister to ensure the recommendations are implemented.

BIS is well placed to meet the implementation plan milestones across the OEP areas which support strongly the work the Department already has in place. For example, with collaborative procurement, of the £450 million savings that the Research Councils' Shared Service Centre predicts that it will generate over the first 10 years of its operation, £400 million will come from procurement savings. The Shareholder Executive is leading the asset management strand across Government, and options for the sale of the student loans portfolio are being developed. We are continuing to work with the further and higher education sectors to improve their procurement practices.

We have recently undertaken an initial benchmarking back office costs exercise. BIS has a large network of partner organisations included in this exercise and has worked hard to collect the relevant data. We will be working with partner organisations and colleagues across Whitehall to develop the benefits from this work.

Derek Draper

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2072W, on Derek Draper and Charlie Whelan, on what date the Secretary of State most recently spoke to Mr. Derek Draper in the course of his official duties. [299329]

Mr. McFadden: My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State has had no reason in the course of his official duties to speak to Mr. Derek Draper.

Electronic Equipment

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what steps his Department is taking to support the electronics manufacturing industry; [298056]

(2) if he will increase the support available through his Department and its agencies to small and medium-sized manufacturing businesses; [298057]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to increase the skills level of the workforce in the electronics industry. [298058]

Ian Lucas: The UK's electronics sector, and ICT more widely, is increasingly the enabler most likely to give companies in many other sectors their competitive edge, which is why the Government strongly supports it. Most recently, our package of measures to support Advanced Manufacturing announced in July, as part of our "New Industry, New Jobs" initiative, included the expansion of the Printable Electronics Technology centre in Sedgefield through an additional £12 million of investment, seeking to create up to 1,500 jobs by 2014, and an investment of £0.5 million towards the development of a Centre of Excellence for Silicon Design in the South West.

The Government provide extensive support for the sector via the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC). This has included support for the ARTEMIS and ENIAC European Joint Technology initiatives, the Innovative Electronics Manufacturing Research Centre, and the Electronics Knowledge Transfer Network.

BIS officials also provide support to the sector through their strong links to the Electronics Leadership Council, the sector's trade associations, and the UK Electronics Alliance, and by chairing the Electronics Regulatory Group which works with the sector to identify key regulatory issues affecting electronics companies and to help mitigate regulatory impacts.

In addition, UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) helps electronics companies to internationalise their businesses by developing their international trade potential with advice, support and access to research. UKTI also helps them access international markets by providing support to attend trade fairs, facilitating meetings with overseas buyers and organising visits to new markets.

More generally, a wide range of support measures are available to small and medium-sized manufacturers via the Solutions for Business package and Business Link. These include recent measures under the Real Help for Business initiative, to address the cash flow, credit and investment needs of SMEs, as well as increased support for SMEs through products such as the Manufacturing Advisory Service, which has undergone an £8 million expansion, and plays a vital role in helping UK manufacturers to share knowledge, improve productivity and achieve success in an increasingly competitive global economy.

We have a wide range of skills programmes and initiatives which are designed to boost the skill levels of the work force. Through its Train to Gain Sector Compact and wider UK work, SEMTA, the Sector Skills Council for Science, Engineering, Manufacturing and Technologies, has engaged with nearly 2,000 electronics based companies in the UK in the past 12 months to identify and develop the right investment in skills.

The development of skills in the industry is also provided through our £1 billion (total for the whole economy) a year Apprenticeships programme. In 2007-08, 6,500 people in England started an Advanced (level 3) Apprenticeship in electro-technical occupations—the third most popular framework at Advanced level.

We are also committed to increasing the number of young people who choose to study STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects post-16. Increasing the STEM qualified proportion of the workforce will contribute to our ability to meet the skills requirements of the electronics industry.

Future Jobs Fund

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding has been allocated from the Future Jobs Fund to create apprenticeships in the creative industries. [288461]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are currently working closely with cultural sectors in order to create exciting job opportunities within the Future Jobs Fund and we welcome bids that create apprenticeships.

At this stage the DWP does not have a detailed breakdown of the sectors that the bids seek to create jobs in. The list of successful bidders to the Future Jobs Fund is available on our website at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/futurejobsfund

Many of these bids are from partnerships who plan to create jobs with a variety of organisations, in different sectors.

Insolvency: Fees and Charges

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received from representatives of small businesses on fees charged to them by insolvency consultants and lawyers. [298811]

Ian Lucas: I have not received any representations from representatives of small businesses about the fees charged by insolvency consultants and lawyers. I would suggest that anyone seeking professional advice should always seek to establish the possible costs involved.

Although the Court can review fees charged by insolvency practitioners, the proposed amendments to the Insolvency Rules, which are due to come into force in April next year, include provisions that will enable creditors to obtain further information and thereby make it easier for greater scrutiny of office-holders' remuneration and expenses. The amendments also make it clearer how to challenge such expenses.

Job Creation: Environment Protection

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many green British jobs his Department expects to be created in each of the next five years. [298945]

Ian Lucas: Based on bottom-up company data, Innovas estimated that in 2007-08 there were 880,000 jobs in the UK Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services Sector (LCEGS).

It is estimated that an additional 400,000 jobs could be created in this sector from the 2007/08 level to 2015 (an average annual growth of 4-5 per cent.). This would represent an increase of 45 per cent.

But we need to remember that essentially we need all jobs to be green jobs. Ambitious carbon reduction targets will require a transition to low carbon for the whole economy. This will affect businesses and workers across the entire British economy, not just the LCEGS sector. There will be a range of opportunities at all skills levels across the economy.

Ultimately it is successful businesses that create jobs. Our focus is to drive sustainable economic growth, which in turn can foster the business success that will generate the jobs of the future.

Learning and Skills Council: Consultants

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) paid *(a)* Fishburn Hedges, *(b)* John Barnes and *(c)* Ian McMillan as part of the Get On competition on football chants, as referred to in the LSC's press release of 13 August 2009. [291619]

Kevin Brennan: The total cost of the activity including agency costs and materials was £21,000 (excluding VAT.) This piece of activity generated a significant amount of national, regional and online media coverage, as well as valuable opportunities within many broadcast programmes on national radio and TV which are vital to reaching the target audience. For this reason, the cost of this activity compares well with the cost of TV and radio advertising. This story is part of the successful Get On literacy and numeracy marketing campaign which has generated 380,000 calls from adults wanting to improve their skills, contributing towards the 2.8 million adults who have improved their literacy and numeracy skills and gained a qualification since 2001.

Low Carbon Zones

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps the Government has taken to identify designated low carbon zones. [293429]

Mr. McFadden: Since the publication of the UK Low Carbon Industrial Strategy in July, we have announced two low carbon economic areas, the first located in the south-west of England, focusing on the development of marine energy and the second in the north-east of England focusing on ultra-low carbon vehicles. We have been working with the regional development agencies and industrial partners and will be announcing further low carbon economic areas over the coming few months.

Manufacturing Industries: Minerals

Tom Levitt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the contribution to the economy of the UK lime manufacturing industry. [298886]

Ian Lucas: The Department has not prepared an assessment of the lime manufacturing industry, and does not therefore have a view on the contribution to the economy of the lime manufacturing industry.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of new cars bought under the vehicle scrappage scheme were *(a)* manufactured in the UK and *(b)* manufactured overseas and imported; and how much money has been paid out under the scheme in respect of imported vehicles. [298359]

Ian Lucas: Full data will not be available until the end of the scheme. Details of new vehicles purchased are not available until transactions are completed and further analysis will also be required because certain models are both imported and manufactured in the UK.

In 2008, 86 per cent. of vehicles sold in the UK were imported. However, the global automotive supply chain is highly integrated and many imported cars will have a significant UK content in terms of components. For example, we understand 90 per cent. of Ford vehicles sold under the scrappage scheme have engines made in the UK.

Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department allocated to each of its non-departmental public bodies in 2008-09. [297128]

Mr. McFadden: The level of funding the Department has allocated to its NDPBs in 2008-09 is set out in the following table:

Name of body	*Type of body*	*BIS funding 2008-09 (£000)*
Central Arbitration Committee	Tribunal NDPB	680
Copyright Tribunal	Tribunal NDPB	61
Insolvency Practitioners' Tribunal	Tribunal NDPB	0
Competition Appeals Tribunal	Tribunal NDPB	0
Learning and Skills Council	Executive NDPB	11,894,866
Higher Education Funding Council for England	Executive NDPB	7,445,114
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council	Executive NDPB	784,878
Science and Technology Facilities Council	Executive NDPB	602,699
Medical Research Council	Executive NDPB	643,000
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council	Executive NDPB	412,155
North West RDA	Executive NDPB	384,704
Advantage West Midlands (RDA)	Executive NDPB	295,536
Yorkshire Forward (RDA)	Executive NDPB	297,312
Natural Environment Research Council	Executive NDPB	395,760
Technology Strategy Board	Executive NDPB	222,000
One North East (RDA)	Executive NDPB	245,419
South West of England RDA	Executive NDPB	169,650
East Midlands RDA	Executive NDPB	161,192
South East England RDA	Executive NDPB	160,741
Economic and Social Research Council	Executive NDPB	178,000
East of England RDA	Executive NDPB	131,660
Arts and Humanities Research Council	Executive NDPB	114,698
UKCES	Executive NDPB	66,635
Student Loans Company	Executive NDPB	78,584
Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS)	Executive NDPB	47,312
Consumer Focus	Executive NDPB	23,017
Competition Commission	Executive NDPB	20,500
UK Atomic Energy Authority	Executive NDPB	8,337
Design Council	Executive NDPB	6,435
Investors in People UK (now part of UK CES)	Executive NDPB	4,700
Competition Service	Executive NDPB	3876
Local Better Regulation Office	Executive NDPB	4,400
Capital for Enterprise Ltd	Executive NDPB	2,010
Office for Fair Access	Executive NDPB	514
British Hallmarking Council	Executive NDPB	0
Construction Industry Training Board	Executive NDPB	0
Engineering Construction Industry Training Board	Executive NDPB	0
Film Industry Training Board for England and Wales	Executive NDPB	0
Hearing Aid Council	Executive NDPB	0
National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA)	Executive NDPB	0
Simpler Trade Procedures Board (SITPRO)	Executive NDPB	780
Council for Science and Technology	Advisory NDPB	150
Industrial Development Advisory Board	Advisory NDPB	0
Low Pay Commission	Advisory NDPB	811
Regional Industrial Development Boards	Advisory NDPB	0
Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property	Advisory NDPB	0
Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board	Advisory NDPB	0
Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Advisory Board	Advisory NDPB	0

Sanctions: Iran

Mr. Hague: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions UK companies have informed his Department that they have notified the European Commission under Article 2 of the EU's Council Regulation 2271/96 in relation to the extra-territorial application of US sanctions legislation on Iran in each of the last four financial years; and if he will make a statement. [293790]

Ian Lucas: None.

Strategic Investment Fund

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made with the competition for a national composites centre as part of the Strategic Investment Fund programme; how invitations to compete for the centre were issued; which organisations have submitted bids; how much of the Fund's resources will be allocated to the centre; and if he will make a statement. [299012]

Mr. McFadden: We received a number of bids under the general invitation for bids for funding under the Strategic Investment Fund programme announced in the Budget 2009, including those for a national composite centre.

Any decision on the location and funding of the centre will be announced as part of the launch of the UK Composites Strategy.

Technology Strategy Board: Grants

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Technology Strategy Board allocated to *(a)* all UK businesses and *(b)* UK video games businesses in 2008. [295764]

Mr. Lammy: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1244W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Anti-Semitism: Poland

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on incidents of anti-Semitism in Poland since July 2009; what recent discussions he has had with the government of Poland on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [298344]

Chris Bryant: We have not received any reports regarding violent anti-Semitic incidents in Poland since July 2009 and we have not had any recent discussions with the Polish Government on this matter.

Britain-Israel Research and Academic Exchange

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance his Department has provided to the Britain-Israel Research and Academic Exchange partnership in the last 12 months; what assistance he plans to provide to that organisation in the next six months; and if he will make a statement. [R] [298348]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Britain-Israel Research and Academic Exchange was announced jointly by UK and Israeli Prime Ministers in July 2008. The Government have contributed £20,000 in the last 12 months. The funding given has already been put to good use, to pay for start-up costs. Representatives from the British Council and our embassy in Tel Aviv are members of the scheme's administrative committee. We intend to continue our support and have earmarked £5,000 for the current financial year.

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department travelled by (i) car, (ii) rail and (iii) air on Government business in each year since 1997. [298552]

Chris Bryant: Information on miles travelled by Ministers and officials is not held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Iraq: Armed Conflict

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department received reports that Iraqi civilians employed as locally-engaged staff had been killed because they worked for the UK. [298608]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We first received a report of the murder of an interpreter who was working for the UK on 12 March 2005. Another interpreter had been killed on 4 November 2004 by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device. However, we cannot be certain that the latter was specifically targeted because of his work for the UK.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department first received reports of threats to the lives of Iraqi locally employed civilians. [298609]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The first reported threats to the lives of Iraqi LE staff were received in early 2005.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how long on average elapsed between the announcement of the *(a)* asylum and *(b)* financial payment scheme for former Iraqi locally employed civilians and the first former Iraqi locally employed civilians leaving Iraq for a neighbouring country under the scheme. [298612]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Locally Engaged Staff Assistance Scheme for former locally employed staff included the options of resettlement in the UK or a financial settlement. This was announced in a written ministerial statement by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 29WS. The first former Iraqi locally employed staff who opted for resettlement under the Gateway Refugee Resettlement Programme left Iraq at the end of April 2008 for a neighbouring third country.

Kosovo: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's budget is for its activities in Kosovo in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010; and if he will make a statement. [297624]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s budget for its activities in Kosovo comprises (a) operational costs for our embassy in Pristina and (b) discretionary programme funding. In addition, the Conflict Prevention Pool and Peacekeeping Budget (separate budgets owned jointly by the FCO, Ministry of Defence and Department for International Development (DFID), with decisions on spending taken tri-departmentally, irrespective of the implementing Department) fund a range of Kosovo related activity.

Below is a breakdown for financial years (FY) 2008-09 and 2009-10:

	£
FY 2008-09	
Embassy Operational Costs	704,319
FCO Discretionary Programme Funding	228,919
Tri-departmental Conflict Funding	26,600,000
FY 2009-10	
Embassy Operational Costs	686,566
FCO Discretionary Programme Funding	168,500
Tri-departmental Conflict Funding	9,000,000

Activities funded by the tri-departmental conflict funding are:

(a) discretionary spending in support of military and civilian peacekeeping missions.

(b) conflict related programme expenditure.

The reduction in conflict funding between FY 2008-09 and FY 2009-10 relates principally to the decision in March 2009 by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Supreme Allied Commander for Europe that the capacity provided by British troops to the NATO force in Kosovo (KFOR) could be reduced given the steady improvement of the security environment in Kosovo.

In addition to these figures, the FCO—on behalf of the three departments—pays the UK's assessed contributions for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Mission in Kosovo, the EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) and the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). We contribute 11.09 per cent. of the OSCE overall budget for field missions, equating to €3,333,687 in 2008 and €2,984,319 in 2009. The UK pays approximately 17 per cent. of the common costs of all European Security and Defence Policy missions, including EULEX. For the period from August 2009 to June 2010, the approximate UK contribution to the common costs of EULEX is £22 million. The UK contribution to common costs for UNMIK in 2008-09 were £7,508,472 and are projected to be £3,155,032 in 2009-10.

Decisions have not yet been made on embassy operational, FCO discretionary programme or Conflict Prevention Pool allocations for 2010-11 nor have all the relevant multilateral negotiations on mission budgets taken place.

This does not represent the total Government budget in Kosovo. For example, DFID spent £3.1 million in Kosovo in the financial year 2008-09 and funded the UK's share of assessed costs for UN agencies, the World Bank and European Commission's Instrument for Pre-Accession.

Libya: EU External Relations

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on a European Union-Libya co-operation agreement; what assessment he has made of the issues to be resolved before an agreement can be reached; and when he expects the agreement to be concluded. [299153]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In July 2008 the Justice and Home Affairs Council approved a mandate for the European Commission to take forward negotiations on the EU-Libyan framework agreement. Negotiations began in November 2008.

The framework agreement will cover a range of political, social, economic, commercial and cultural relations between the EU and Libya. It will provide a platform for dialogue and cooperation on areas including human rights, enhancement of energy security, migration and combating terrorism.

Negotiations are led by the Commission and are ongoing. To date there have been four rounds of negotiations, with the next round scheduled to take place later this year. No date has been set for signature.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the state of relations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority; and if he will make a statement. [298971]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Relations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority are currently under strain because of disagreements over how to relaunch the peace process and who is to blame for the lack of progress.

The Government, from my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister down, work closely with them, and our international partners, to find a way to launch a credible process with a credible prospect of achieving a two-state solution.

We have made it clear that we fully support US President Barack Obama's initiative to kick-start political negotiations. We believe urgent progress is essential to build confidence throughout the region.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the US Administration on progress towards peace in the Middle East. [298972]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The US Administration, from the President down, have made clear their commitment to restarting negotiations and continue to work towards that goal. We are offering them our full support, as my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear to US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on 11 October and Senator George Mitchell on 28 October 2009.

While significant obstacles undoubtedly remain, the alternatives to credible negotiations towards a two-state solution are far worse. We believe urgent progress is essential to build confidence throughout the region.

NATO: Cybercrime

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consideration his Department has given to extending the definition of Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty to include cyber attacks; and if he will make a statement. [297678]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)'s Policy on Cyber Defence, agreed at the Bucharest summit in 2008, provides for a common and co-ordinated approach to cyber defence and any response to cyber attacks, and guides individual member states on protecting their own national systems.

Article 5 of the Washington treaty states that an armed attack against one member of NATO shall be considered an attack on all. Article 4 of the treaty makes clear that "The Parties will consult together whenever, in the opinion of any of them, the territorial integrity, political independence or security of any of the Parties is threatened." The UK is fully committed to these obligations. How these provisions relate to new threats, such as cyber attack, will be considered as part of the process of updating NATO's Strategic Concept.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the political situation in Zimbabwe on the economy of southern Africa. [296739]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 2 November 2009]*: President Mugabe's policies prior to the formation of the power-sharing government in February 2009 had a disastrous impact on Zimbabwe. They also had, and continue to have, ramifications for the region more widely. Zimbabwe's economic collapse has lowered investor confidence across the entire region, reduced regional growth, and triggered political and economic migration leading to increased pressure on services and inter-communal tensions in receiving countries.

Since the formation of the inclusive government in February, Finance Minister Biti has worked hard to stabilise the economy, increase revenue generation to allow the payment of salaries to the civil service, and improve public finance management. Much remains to be done to restore investor confidence in Zimbabwe, including by reforming the Central Bank. We commend the progress so far, and urge Zimbabwe to implement fully the economic reform envisaged in the Global Political Agreement.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Commonwealth counterparts on the political situation in Zimbabwe. [298974]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are in regular contact with members of the Southern African Development Community, many of whom are members of the Commonwealth, as part of an ongoing dialogue, including on Zimbabwe. Most recently, my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Baroness Kinnock, visited South Africa and Nigeria on 2-6 November 2009 and discussed Zimbabwe with South African and Nigerian counterparts.

International donors, including Commonwealth countries, met to discuss Zimbabwe in Berlin on 26 October 2009. The Commonwealth's Committee of the Whole met in London on 21-22 October 2009.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps he has taken to reduce levels of alcohol-related violence. [297981]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The majority of people who drink enjoy alcohol sensibly. We are however determined to take action to reduce the levels of crime and disorder caused by those who do not. This includes commencing drink banning orders (DBO) on application on 31 August 2009 to allow the police and local authorities to crack down on those who commit criminal or disorderly behaviour while under the influence of alcohol; earlier this year we spent £3 million on targeted enforcement activities in over 190 areas, as well as a further £1.5 million on enforcement campaigns in our top 50 priority areas. This summer we launched a £1.5 million partnership support programme in our top 50 priority areas to specifically target public perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour by ensuring that local people's concerns are being acted upon and the results are made known to the local communities.

Last year we ran 13 regional workshops to train around 1,300 frontline practitioners, including the police and licensing officers. We are now running a further series of two-day alcohol-enforcement training seminars in our 50 priority areas aimed at magistrates, courts officials, elected members who sit on licensing committees and operational police officers. To support these seminars we have recently published a comprehensive guide for delivery partners on alcohol-enforcement tools and powers and we have developed a digital resource pack, which has recently gone live.

We are continuing to take forward the alcohol measures included in the Policing and Crime Bill which was introduced in December 2008. These include a new mandatory code for the alcohol industry which will stop irresponsible promotions and practices such as "all you can drink for £10" and "women drink free"; new powers for local authorities allowing them to initiate reviews against licensed premises in their area; creation of a new offence of persistent possession of alcohol in a public place by a person aged under 18; strengthening the "persistent selling" offence from three sales to an under 18-year-old in three months to two sales in three months; removing the need for the police to show intent in existing confiscation of alcohol legislation; and amend the directions to leave powers so that a police officer can instruct any young person aged 10 and over (it is currently 16) to leave an area if they felt they would contribute to crime and disorder.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders were *(a)* issued and *(b)* breached in (i) England and (ii) Vale of York constituency in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [297110]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued at all courts in England in each year during the period 2005 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

The number of ASBOs issued at all courts in England subsequently proven in court to have been breached for the first time in each year during the period 2005 to 2007 is also shown in the table.

It should be noted that these breached ASBOs are counted based on the year the first breach was proven in court. Many ASBOs which are breached in a particular year will have been issued in a previous year, and some will have been issued prior to 2005; it is therefore not possible to compute breach rates from the figures presented in this table. ASBOs may be breached more than once and in more than one year. In this table ASBOs are counted once only within the period when they were first breached.

Data on ASBOs issued and breached collected centrally by my Department are not available below criminal justice system (CJS) area level.

The number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued at all courts[1] in England and the number proven in court to have been breached, in each year[2], 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007

England	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Issued	3,907	2,507	2,136
Breached[3, 4]	2,098	1,740	1,502

[1] This includes magistrates courts when acting both in their civil capacity issuing ASBOs on application and their criminal capacity when issuing ASBOs following conviction for a criminal offence.

[2] ASBOs may be breached more than once and in more than one year. In this table ASBOs breached are counted based on the year the first breach was proven in court. Many ASBOs which are breached in a particular year will have been issued in a previous year.

[3] ASBOs can be issued in one police force area and breached in another. In this table breaches are counted on area of issue.

[4] Breach data from the magistrates court administrative systems in Kent and Northamptonshire are known to have been under-reported.

Notes:

1. Previously issued data have been revised.
2. ASBO breach data are compiled by matching records of ASBOs issued with ASBOs breached. The nature of this matching process means that previously published ASBO breach data are subject to minor revision. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Sources:

(Issued): as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service Source.
(Breached): OCJR Court Proceedings Database.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Berkshire

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people under the age of 18 years were given antisocial behaviour orders in *(a)* Reading, East constituency and *(b)* Berkshire in each year since the inception of such orders; [297555]

(2) how many acceptable behaviour contracts have been agreed in *(a)* Reading, East constituency and *(b)* Berkshire in each year since the inception of such contracts; [297556]

(3) how many breaches of antisocial behaviour orders have *(a)* been recorded and *(b)* resulted in a criminal conviction in (i) Reading, East constituency and (ii) Berkshire in each year since the inception of such orders. [297557]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data on antisocial behaviour contracts are collected under the survey completed by crime and disorder reduction partnerships. Data were first collected for the period October 2003 to September 2004 and the most recent are for the period from October 2007 to September 2008. The data for Reading CDRP are broken down as follows:

	Number
2003-04	6
2004-05	21
2005-06	2
2006-07	4
2007-08	5
Total	38

Data broken down by constituency and county are not available. Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) became available from April 1999. Data collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on numbers of ASBOs issued showing a breakdown by age group are only available for ASBOs issued from 1 June 2000. The number of ASBOs issued in each year to persons under the age of 18 at all courts in the Thames Valley Criminal Justice System (CJS) area between 1 June 2000 and 31 December 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Data collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on ASBO breaches only counts those occasions where the breach was proven in court to have occurred and are available for ASBOs issued from 1 June 2000. The number of ASBOs issued at all courts in the Thames Valley CJS area subsequently proven in court to have been breached for the first time in each year during the period 1 June 200- 31 December 2007 is also shown in the table.

It should be noted that these breached ASBOs are counted based on the year the first breach was proven in court. They include breaches by persons of all ages. Many ASBOs which are breached in a particular year will have been issued in a previous year; it is therefore not possible to compute breach rates from the figures presented this table. ASBOs may be breached more than once and in more than one year. In this table ASBOs are counted once only within the period when they were first breached.

Data on ASBOs issued and breached collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice are not available below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

Number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued to persons under 18 years of age at all courts[1] in the Thames Valley Criminal Justice System (CJS) area and the number proven in court to have been breached, in each year[2], 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2007

Thames Valley	*2000[3]*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Issued (aged 10-17)	—	3	2	5	21	10	3	17
Breached (all ages)[4]	n/a	n/a	n/a	6	26	32	31	22

n/a = not available.

[1] This includes magistrates courts when acting both in their civil capacity issuing ASBOs on application and their criminal capacity when issuing ASBOs following conviction for a criminal offence.

[2] ASBOs may be breached more than once and in more than one year. In this table ASBOs breached are counted based on the year the first breach was proven in court. Many ASBOs which are breached in a particular year will have been issued in a previous year.

[3] Age details of ASBO recipients available from 1 June 2000. Breach data are from 1 June 2000.

[4] ASBOs can be issued in one CJS area and breached in another. In this table breaches are counted on area of issue.

Breach data for 2000—02 are not available broken down by year.

Notes:

1. Previously issued data have been revised.
2. ASBO breach data are compiled by matching records of ASBOs issued with ASBOs breached. The nature of this matching process means that previously published ASBO breach data are subject to minor revision. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source (issued):

As reported to the Home Office by the Court Service.

Source (breached):

Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database.

Prepared by Justice Statistics Analytical Services.

[Ref: ASBO 57-09, PQs 297557 and 297555].

Asylum

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many files relating to applications for refugee status the UK Border Agency has lost. [296409]

Mr. Woolas: By definition, the exact number cannot be known. However the total number of the Agency's case files which are not currently recorded with a clear location is less than 0.2 per cent. of the overall file holding.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for Section 4 support were *(a)* considered and *(b)* refused in each year since 2006. [295061]

Mr. Woolas: Regularly published statistics on asylum show that in 2006 there were 6,025 decisions to grant support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. In 2007 there were 6,705 decisions and in 2008 there were 9,110 decisions.

In 2006, 2,735 people were refused section 4 support. In 2007 the figure was 2,795 and in 2008 it was 1,290. These figures are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information. They are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Statistics on section 4 support are published on a quarterly and annual basis. Control of Immigration 2008 is available from the Library of the House and on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Borders: Personal Records

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with representatives of (i) airlines, (ii) ferry companies, (iii) international rail operators, (iv) leisure craft representatives and (v) other transport operators on the e-borders scheme in 2009. [296763]

Alan Johnson: Throughout 2009, the Home Secretary and the Minister for Borders and Immigration have met with representatives from Virgin Atlantic, British Airways, FlyBe, the British Air Travel Association and the Passenger Shipping Association.

In 2009, Border Force officials have engaged with representatives from the all modes of transport mentioned (i)-(v). Officials continue to discuss the e-borders programme with individual companies as well as via the monthly Aviation Carriers Connectivity Working Group and the bi-monthly Maritime Carriers Connectivity Working Group. In addition to this, they participate in carrier forums and meet with trade bodies including the Royal Yachting Association and the British Board of General Aviation and Light Aircraft Association.

British Nationality

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account his Department takes of length of residence in the UK when determining the merits of applications for citizenship, with particular reference to periods of residence of 20 years or more. [298322]

Mr. Woolas: Most of those applying for British citizenship do so through naturalisation under section of 6 of the British Nationality Act 1981. This requires a person to have been resident in the United Kingdom for a period of five years, or three years if he or she is the spouse or civil partner of a British citizen. Within that time, there are restrictions on the number of days that the applicant should have been outside the United Kingdom.

In addition to having been here legally for the residential qualifying period, a person is also required: to be free of immigration time restrictions; to be of good character; to have sufficient knowledge of life in the United Kingdom and of English, Welsh or Scottish Gaelic; and (unless the spouse or civil partner of a British citizen) to intend to have their principal home in the United Kingdom if naturalised.

There is discretion to overlook certain of the residence requirements, and in considering this UKBA would take into account the length of time a person has been the United Kingdom. Long residence would not, however, make a difference to a person's application if he or she did not meet the other statutory requirements.

British Nationality: Assessments

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time was for a person to take a British citizenship test in the most recent period for which figures are available. [297617]

Mr. Woolas: The following tables show the current average waiting times for the Life in the UK Test.

Waiting times for Life in the UK tests

Percentage

	2009								
Percentage of candidates taking the test within:	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*
Four weeks of booking	94.02	94.77	91.16	94.74	95.41	98.45	—	—	—
Eight weeks of booking	99.91	99.86	98.74	99.88	99.94	97.74	—	—	—
Average waiting time (days)	14.66	14.25	14.71	14.14	14.65	13.90	—	—	—

Percentage

	2010				
Percentage of candidates taking the test within:	*January*	*February*	*March*	*2009-10*	*Target*
Four weeks of booking	—	—	—	94.55	80
Eight weeks of booking	—	—	—	99.29	98
Average waiting time (days)	—	—	—	14.41	n/a

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* took and *(b)* passed the life in the UK citizenship test in each month of 2009. [297618]

Mr. Woolas: The following table breaks down the number of tests taken this year.

2009	*Number of tests delivered*	*Passes*
January	17,187	13,038
February	18,332	13,542
March	22,236	16,248
April	18,229	13,384
May	16,341	12,267
June	15,167	11,370
July	15,821	11,970
August	15,539	11,786
September	16,305	12,202

Note:
October figures are not yet available.

Crime Prevention: Cars

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cars in *(a)* the Vale of York, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* England are fitted with a tracking device. [295744]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not collected by central Government.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice is provided to people who leave their cars parked in the driveway on protecting their vehicle from theft. [295745]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office continues to provide advice to people on how to protect their cars. Advice on the Home Office website suggests fitting alarms or steering locks and, for older cars, immobilisers. It also advises against leaving items on display, and suggests ways of securing items attractive to thieves, such as car stereos and wheels.

The website also provides advice to householders on protecting themselves from burglary, including advice on keeping car keys out of sight of doors and windows, closing and locking doors and windows, and advising on appropriate security standards to take account of when replacing windows or doors.

The website provides a number of published crime prevention guides, including "Steer Clear of Car Crime", which provides advice for people on protecting their car and its contents from theft, including specific advice on keeping car keys safe from thieves, and on how to take account of security when purchasing new or used cars. It also includes contact information for other organisations who may be able to provide more detailed or specific advice and information.

A further publication, "Be safe be secure" provides advice on minimising the risks of becoming a victim of a number of different crime types, including car theft and burglary.

The Home Office is also now preparing an updated version of the publication "Keep it safe, keep it hidden, keep it locked" which also provides advice to members of the public on protecting their possessions, including cars and their contents.

The Home Office keeps the advice it provides under review to ensure that what it provides is accurate, relevant and useful. It is currently considering how best to ensure that the advice is readily available to those who are not already aware of it, or applying it.

Departmental Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of his Department's staff worked *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time on asylum removals in each of the last five years. [297612]

Mr. Woolas: Over the last five years the internal organisation of the United Kingdom Border Agency and that of its predecessor organisations changed considerably. It is not possible to distinguish the set of staff working on every aspect of 'removals' from their colleagues over the period requested except at disproportionate costs.

Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff were working in the assisted voluntary return unit on 1 October 2009. [297620]

Mr. Woolas: 27 full-time equivalent staff worked in the assisted voluntary return unit on 1 October 2009.

Detention Centres: Suicide

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults are recorded as having attempted suicide while held in immigration removal centres in each of the last five years. [297613]

Mr. Woolas: We do not have a central definition of attempted suicide as it is not always clear whether an individual who seeks to harm themselves intended to kill themselves.

We take the safety of those in our care very seriously, and operate a system called Assessment Care in Detention and Teamwork (ACDT) to identify and help those who are at risk of suicide or self harm. Notices in various languages are displayed around Centres setting out that, where there is a concern about a fellow detainee, this should be brought to the attention of a member of staff.

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applications submitted to the British consulate in Islamabad are outstanding; and what steps he plans to take to expedite the processing of such applications. [293610]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 October 2009]:* As of 23 October, there were approximately 1,000 visa applications at the visa section in Islamabad which were awaiting initial assessment and processing before being passed to Entry Clearance Officers in the Abu Dhabi visa hub for a decision.

The UKBA has deployed additional temporary staff to Islamabad and Abu Dhabi with the aim of clearing the backlog by mid-November.

Entry Clearances: Religious Persons

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applicants from each country seeking to visit the UK for the purpose of speaking in mosques have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused the right to visit the UK in each of the last five years. [295821]

Alan Johnson: The UK Border Agency is unable to identify from its records those visa applicants who wished to visit the UK for the specific purpose of speaking in mosques. There has been provision in the Immigration Rules since November 2008 for non-EEA nationals who wish to undertake some preaching or pastoral work in the UK to enter as business visitors. While the agency keeps a record of those applying for entry in this category, the category is open to applicants of all faiths and the agency cannot therefore identify Moslem applicants from others. The agency is also unable to identify from its records of visit visa applications prior to November 2008 those that were made for religious purposes.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many imams from each country have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused the right to work in the UK in each of the last five years. [295822]

Alan Johnson: While the UKBA can provide information on the numbers of non-EEA nationals who have been granted leave to enter or remain (1) prior to 27 November 2008, as a minister of religion, missionary or member or religious order; and (2) since 27 November 2008, as a minister of religion or temporary religious worker under the points based system, these immigration categories are open to applicants from all religious faiths and it is not possible to separately identify those applicants who were imams or of any other particular faith.

Fraud: Learning Disability

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps he has taken to reduce the incidence of fraud against people with learning disabilities. [297986]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

The National Fraud Authority is committed in its business plan to deliver, in partnership, an improved service to the victims of fraud. This service is to be piloted in the west midlands police area from January and will place a particular emphasis on providing a tailored service to vulnerable people.

The pilot is to be delivered in the community by specialist agencies, mainly from the third sector, and if successful rolled out to the rest of England and Wales by the end of 2010. One aim of the pilot is to stop the multiple victimisation of some of our most vulnerable citizens.

Illegal Immigrants

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* businesses have paid a civil penalty fine for employment of an illegal immigrant in 2009. [297610]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the numbers of civil penalties paid by individuals and businesses for offences related to illegal working under section 15 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, from 1 January to 30 September 2009. Where the individual or business in question can show that they are unable to pay their full penalty as a lump sum, arrangements for payment in instalments can be agreed with the UK Border Agency.

1 January-30 September 2009	*Individuals*	*Businesses*
Paid in full	115	47
Paid in instalments	505	67

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

Immigration

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases an application for *(a)* asylum and *(b)* leave to remain was initially refused and subsequently granted following the intervention of an hon. Member in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007, (iv) 2008 and (v) 2009. [298108]

Mr. Woolas: The Case Information Database (CID) used by the UK Border Agency records details of applications for asylum and leave to remain, including whether or not the application has been refused or granted. It also records details of any intervention in the case by an hon. Member, but not in such a way as to allow the automatic extraction of the data requested.

To establish this information, therefore, would require the manual examination of a large number of individual records at disproportionate cost.

The Home Office publishes statistics on decisions on applications for an extension of leave to remain on an annual basis, and on initial decisions on applications for asylum and on appeals on a quarterly and annual basis. National Statistics on immigration and asylum are placed in the Library of the House and are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Immigration Controls

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of sponsor licence applications have taken longer than four weeks to process in each of the last 36 months. [294390]

Alan Johnson: The start date for applications was 29 February 2008. Applications for processing were received from April 2008. The following table shows the number of sponsor licence applications that have taken longer than four weeks to process, expressed as a total and as a percentage of all sponsor licence applications processed.

	Total of sponsor licences >four weeks	*Percentage of sponsor licences >four weeks*
2008		
May	10	67
June	40	83
July	50	75
August	85	76
September	120	77
October	500	49
November	1,780	83
December	1,740	59
2009		
January	450	28
February	350	25
March	575	33
April	385	44
May	710	61
June	655	62
July	830	69
August	715	67
September	845	69

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to nearest five.

2. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Local Government Services

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his Department's policy is on participating in the Total Place initiative with local councils. [298439]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office is committed to working with Total Place pilot areas and others to achieve the project's goal of improving public-sector efficiency. The Home Office is represented on the Total Place Ministerial Group and more broadly the Department sits on the Total Place High-Level Officials Group and the Total Place Project Board. The Home Office is actively supporting the work being taken forward through these forums.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 29 September 2009, reference: P 1185 127 (CTS reference B27551/9). [298154]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* In response to the letter of 29 September 2009, the Deputy Director for Family and Economic Migration in the London and South East Region wrote to my hon. Friend on 5 November 2009.

National Public Order Intelligence Unit

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department where the National Public Order Intelligence Unit (NPOIU) is based; who its director is; how many staff the NPOIU *(a)* employs and *(b)* seconds from other organisations; what its budget for 2009-10 is; to whom it is accountable; and what databases on prospective threats to public order the NPOIU (i) compiles and (ii) manages. [296886]

Mr. Hanson: The National Public Order Intelligence Unit (NPOIU) is based in central London and is headed by a Detective Superintendent who reports to the Association of Chief Police Officers' (ACPO) National Coordinator for Domestic Extremism, Assistant Chief Constable Anton Setchell. In turn he is responsible to the ACPO Committee for Terrorism and Allied Matters (TAM). For operational security reasons the identity of the head of NPOIU and the unit's precise location are not disclosed.

NPOIU employs between 60 and 70 police officers and staff all of whom are seconded from local police forces. Its budget for 2009-10 was £5 million.

The NPOIU database is a small intelligence database that is used to coordinate on a national basis intelligence that is collected by forces. The main purpose of the intelligence function is:

to provide the police service with an ability to develop a national threat assessment and profile for domestic extremism;

to support forces to reduce crime and disorder from domestic extremism;

to support a proportionate police response to protest activity; and

to help forces manage concerns of communities and businesses in order to minimise conflict and disorder.

The police will always carefully balance these responsibilities with their duty to facilitate peaceful protest.

Sexual Offences

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the number of sexual offences committed by drivers of unlicensed cabs in each of the last 12 years. [297672]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 3 November 2009]:* The information requested is not available.

Theft: Motor Vehicles

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases there have been of thieves stealing car keys from a house then stealing the vehicle parked outside that house in *(a)* the Vale of York, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* England in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [295742]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Supplementary data on the taking of vehicles during burglaries, often referred to as 'car key' burglaries, have only been available centrally from 2007-08. 38 of the police forces in England were able to provide figures for 2008-09.

The available figures for the Yorkshire and Humber region show there were 3,628 offences of burglary in a dwelling involving the taking of vehicle in 2008-09 (including Humberside).

The available figures for forces in England reveal that there were 19,190 offences of burglary in a dwelling involving the taking of vehicle in 2008-09.

Figures for this supplementary dataset are not collected at local authority level and therefore statistics for the Vale of York are not available centrally.

UK Border Agency: Correspondence

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK Border Agency plans to respond to the letters of 29 April, 10 July and 9 September 2009 from the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham sent on behalf of his constituent, Mr. Yusef Gutale. [297106]

Mr. Woolas: I am pleased to inform the hon. Gentleman that his letters of 29 April, 10 July and 9 September 2009 were replied to in a letter dated 3 November 2009.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

CAFCASS: Finance

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will estimate the percentage of time spent by Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service practitioners in direct contact with children and families in the course of their official duties in the last 12 months for which information is available. [298687]

Dawn Primarolo: CAFCASS has statutory duties to: safeguard and promote the welfare of the child involved in family court proceedings; advise courts about family proceedings applications; make provision for children to be represented in such proceedings; and provide information, advice and support for children and their families.

CAFCASS practitioners act in a variety of ways to meet these duties depending on the kind of case and exactly what the court asks them to do. All of their roles involve some or all of: keeping a special look out for the best interests of the child; standing up for those interests; making relevant inquiries and writing a report for the court. In doing this, practitioners will spend time in direct contact with the child and their family.

CAFCASS does not routinely collect time usage information and does not hold such an estimate.

Care Homes: Children

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether he has assessed levels of *(a)* antisocial behaviour and *(b)* other criminal activity by residents of privately run children's homes; [297162]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued to privately run children's homes on *(a)* reducing and *(b)* preventing (i) antisocial behaviour and (ii) other criminal activity. [297166]

Dawn Primarolo: Children's homes are required to comply with the Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and are expected to meet the accompanying National Minimum Standards. Children's homes are required to have in place a behaviour management policy, which should set out how the home will promote acceptable behaviour. Children's homes should also promote positive links between children and the local community. Ofsted inspects children's homes against these standards.

Before placing a child in a children's home the local authority should consider how the home will address any challenging behaviour the child may display, including antisocial or criminal activity, and should make sure that the home can meet the needs of that child. No assessment has been made of the level of antisocial or criminal activity among residents in privately run children's homes.

Children and Young Persons Act 2008

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when section 8 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 will be brought fully into force. [297650]

Dawn Primarolo: Section 8 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 amends the 1989 Children Act to substitute new provisions in relation to provision of accommodation and maintenance for children who are looked after by a local authority.

Some provisions inserted by section 8 have already been brought in to force. section 8(3) and schedule 2 came in to force on 12 February 2009. Section 8(1), in so far as it inserts section 22C(11) and 22 (F) into the 1989 Act, and section 8(2) and schedule 1, in so far as it relates to paragraph 4 came in to force on 1 September 2009.

Draft "Care Planning Placement and Case Review Regulations (England)" and related statutory guidance are due to go out to a formal 12 week consultation on 16 November 2009. It is planned that following that consultation the regulations will be made and the guidance issued to come into force in 2010 . The current intention is that the remaining provisions of section 8 will come into force later in 2010.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what arrangements are in place to *(a)* monitor the use of and *(b)* report on (i) accidents and (ii) security breaches in respect of ContactPoint. [297302]

Dawn Primarolo: ContactPoint is designed, built, operated and managed to HM Government standards for security and complies with the strict controls imposed by HM Government security policy. Data contained within the system are made available only to those authorised users and administrators who have been subject to vetting and have completed mandatory training.

Every access to a child's record is detailed in the audit trail and users need to state clear reasons in order to gain access to a child's record. This is regularly reviewed at local and national level to ensure that any misuse of the system is detected and investigated. If unusual activity by users is detected, suspected or reported, the local authority or national partner ContactPoint Management Team must report the incident to the DCSF immediately, suspend the user's account, notify the user's manager and carry out an immediate investigation using local policies and procedures.

The ContactPoint system, and access to it, is constantly monitored. The security of ContactPoint is treated as the highest priority, requiring immediate response and action by the Department, the user organisation and the system supplier. Suspicious network activity is checked and, if the system was believed to be under any form of threat, or if unauthorised access to ContactPoint was detected, the Operations Director would be notified. Depending on the severity of the breach, the service provider may be instructed to prevent access to ContactPoint for all users until the incident is resolved. The appropriate persons in the Department, including the Senior Information Risk Owner, the Permanent Secretary, the Minister and the Information Commissioner will be notified as appropriate. Access to the system would not be restored until my Department had been assured that the source of attack or unauthorised or improper access had been located and all necessary mitigating actions had been taken. In the event of a security breach, a full review would take place and prosecutions would be instigated where appropriate.

Children: Day Care

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many providers of daycare and early years foundation stage on non-domestic premises registered with Ofsted are *(a)* individuals, *(b)* a partnership, *(c)* a company, *(d)* a committee and *(e)* a statutory body. [295565]

Dawn Primarolo: This is a matter for Ofsted. The Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, will write to the hon. Member and copies of her reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated October 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

The Government introduced new arrangements for the registration of childcare providers through the Childcare Act 2006, which took effect on 1 September 2008. From that date, the term 'day care' was no longer used to describe registered childcare provision. The closest equivalent is 'childcare on non-domestic premises'. These are providers who care for individual children up to the age of eight in premises that are not someone's home. These premises can range from converted houses to purpose built nurseries.

Table A shows figures for the number of providers who offer childcare on non-domestic premises, broken down by the type of organisation that you specify, as recorded on our database at 30 September 2009.

Table A: Number of childcare providers on non-domestic premises active at 30 September 2009 by organisation type

	Number
Individual	5,774
Partnership	1,981
Company	8,366
Committee	8,175
Statutory Body	2,853

A copy of this reply has been sent to right hon. Dawn Primarolo MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children received free child care in *(a)* Birmingham, Northfield constituency and *(b)* Birmingham in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [296205]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of children receiving free child care can broadly be quantified by the number in receipt of the free entitlement for three and four-year-olds, although a small number of children may also be receiving free child care through other programmes such as the new targeted two-year-old offer. This is shown in the following table.

Table 1: Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1, 2, 3] filled by three[4] and four[4]-year-olds, position in January

	Birmingham, Northfield constituency	*Birmingham local authority*
2009	1,800	26,800

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

[3] In addition to free places taken up through the three and four-year-old offer, a number of children will have access to free provision through other initiatives. Most notably the two-year-olds pilot where Birmingham have been funded to provide 498 places in 2009/10.

[4] Age of all children taken at 31 December in the previous calendar year.

Given footnotes 1 and 3, it is likely that the figures presented in the table are a slight underestimate of the true number of children receiving any child care, but the table shows the most accurate number that can be produced from existing data sources.

Children: Protection

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding he has allocated to train those practitioners involved in safeguarding child victims of trafficking. [298925]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Government guidance, 'Safeguarding children who may have been trafficked', issued in 2007, makes clear that LSCBs should ensure that local training programmes for practitioners and other professionals cover trafficking issues as required, either as part of safeguarding training or as additional training. The budget for each LSCB and the contribution made by each member organisation is agreed locally. DCSF is investing over £130 million in supporting the children and families' social work workforce between 2008 and 2011.

Children: Social Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1504-05W, on children: social services, in which local authorities *(a)* the three children who were victims of homicide and who were on the child protection register, *(b)* the two children who were victims of homicide and who were previously referred to social care services prior to the incident but were not receiving services and *(c)* the 10 children who were not known to children's services resided. [295506]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 26 October 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

Your question refers to the recently published report Learning Lessons, taking action: Year 2, which covered the period April 2008 to April 2009. Of the three children who were victims of homicide and were on the child protection register, one of these resided in Bexley and two resided in North Somerset.

The two children who were victims of homicide and were previously referred to social care services prior to the incidents, but were not receiving services at the time of the incident, both resided in Birmingham.

The ten children who were not known to Children's Services resided in Doncaster, Dorset, East Sussex, Hampshire (two children), Kirklees, Peterborough and Sutton (three children).

A copy of this reply has been sent to right hon. Dawn Primarolo MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Children's Centres

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take to ensure all parents and children are able to access their nearest Sure Start centre. [297047]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government are allocating over £1 billion a year to local authorities to support services in Sure Start Children's Centres. Our practice guidance makes it clear that parents and families should have access to the support they need irrespective of where they live. Children's centres are changing the way many parents' access essential services during their children's early years by delivering them closer to homes and in ways that suit the needs of families.

All Sure Start Children's Centres are expected to provide outreach services to help make a real difference to families who cannot or choose not to access services, providing important information and access to services such as childcare and family support.

In addition, we are working to improve parents' awareness of their local children's centre, including the launch in September of a national communications campaign to raise awareness of Sure Start Children's Centres among parents, with a particular focus on those living in areas of high deprivation.

We are on track to achieve our target of at least 3,500 Sure Start Children's Centres (one for every community) by March 2010, offering access to services for all children under five and their families.

Departmental Annual Reports

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families under which budgetary heading in Table 8.4 of his Department's Annual Report 2009, pages 175-76, his Department's expenditure on *(a)* the Youth of Today programme and *(b)* the Travelling to School Initiative falls. [297025]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department's funding allocation shown aggregated in DCSF's Departmental Annual Report 2009, table 8.4, for the year 2010-11 is shown as follows:

(a) Youth of Today programme falls under;

Youth Programmes—£130,000 allocated to the national youth agency and national voluntary youth agency, and

(b) Travelling to Schools Initiative falls under;

Area Based Grants—£6,874,000, and

Schools Other Miscellaneous Programmes—£300,000.

Departmental ICT

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with which organisations his Department has had exclusivity agreements in relation to information technology *(a)* hardware and *(b)* software in each of the last five years; and whether such agreements were breached in each of those years. [298669]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not currently have any exclusivity agreements relating to information technology for either hardware or software and has not had any such agreements in the last five years.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 13 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 15WS, on official receptions, if he will place in the Library a copy of the list of the guests who attended each reception. [293877]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: These events were attended by media correspondents and key Stakeholders.

Departmental Pilot Schemes

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pilot schemes his Department has commissioned in each year since 1997. [298636]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The number of pilot schemes commissioned by the Department and its predecessors in the last ten years cannot be established without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on first class train tickets for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [280174]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The spend figures for the financial year 2008-9 for first class train travel are:

(a) For Ministers was £8,352 and

(b) for officials was £3,195,655.

Excluding Ministers, there were 17,209 first class rail tickets issued to officials for business travel.

Staffs in grades SEO and above have a formal entitlement to fist class travel. It is departmental policy that, all staff regardless of grade, should consider in advance;

if they need to work on the train then there may be occasions when first class travel will be less busy and noisy than standard class.

if they intend to eat a full meal on the train and claim reimbursement they should consider whether they would get a better deal by opting for a first class package which includes meal vouchers.

if they have a disability or a temporary condition such as a broken limb then first class travel is likely to be more comfortable.

All Members of the Department have a responsibility to make appropriate decisions on how to travel and to secure value for money in the use of travel budgets.

Travel by Ministers and civil servants, is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively.

The data has been provided by the department's contractor for travel booking, Carlson Wagonlit Travel.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors spent on first class rail travel for officials in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [293327]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The data requested was for the Department for Children, School and Families (DCSF). DCSF was established under the machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007, therefore the response covers its predecessor the Department for Education and Skills (DFES).

First class spend for rail travel for each of the last three years is as follows.

	£
2006-07	3,805,862
2007-08	3,101,602
2008-09	3,195,655

Dogs: Young People

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much the Government have spent on educating young people in responsible dog ownership in the last 12 months. [297275]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We do not hold information on how much the Government have spent specifically on educating young people in responsible dog ownership during the last 12 months.

However, pupils in primary and secondary schools learn about animal welfare issues including understanding about the responsibility of humans to care for animals, through Citizenship Education.

Guidance from QCDA on teaching Citizenship includes the units, 'How the law protects animals—a local-to global study' and 'Animals and Us'. Both of these resources support learning about animal welfare.

Education: Young Offenders

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent *(a)* in total and *(b)* per inmate on education for inmates of young offender institutions in 2008-09. [296970]

Mr. Coaker: The amount of funding allocated to the LSC for the financial year 2008-09, for delivery of learning through the Offenders' Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) to young people aged 15-17 in Prison Service Young Offender Institutions in England was £19,399,065. This does not include information about additional provision outside of the scope of LSC funded provision which is not collected centrally, neither does it include funding for young adults aged 18-20 in YOIs, as this information is not easily disaggregated.

As at 31 March 2009, the YJB commissioned 2,543 beds across the young person's prison service YOI estate, therefore on average £7,628 was allocated per bed.

Faith Schools: Islam

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received from the charity Islamic Help on the establishment of a girls' boarding school and teacher training facility in Nelson. [298621]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department has not received any representations from the charity Islamic Help on the establishment of a new school and teacher training facility in Nelson, Lancashire.

Family Intervention Projects

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what sanctions will apply to families which do not comply with the conditions of a family intervention project; [298948]

(2) how many family intervention projects his Department plans to undertake in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010, *(c)* 2011, *(d)* 2012, *(e)* 2013, *(f)* 2014 and *(g)* 2015. [298949]

Dawn Primarolo: While a family's involvement in a family intervention project is voluntary, the projects draw on and drive home the implications of sanctions that a family or family members may already be facing. These include seeking possession of a family's tenancy, a parenting order, antisocial behaviour order, proceedings to take children into care and juvenile specific orders.

Every local authority has funding for at least one family intervention project and we plan to have 228 in place by the end of 2009. From April 2010 there is additional funding for further projects. The number of projects which will be established will depend on whether local authorities use this money to expand existing projects or set up new ones. However on 30 September 2009 the Prime Minister announced that 10,000 families would be supported by FIPs each year from 2011/12 onwards.

Home Education: Inspections

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which 15 local authorities will be contacted by Ofsted to discuss the potential inspection regime for home education. [296963]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 5 November 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Ofsted is not contacting local authorities to discuss a potential inspection regime for home education. However, as part of Ofsted's annual programme of survey inspections, which was agreed in 2008, we are undertaking a survey of education otherwise than at school. This survey will cover elective education at home, as well as those children that go missing from school. It will provide independent inspection evidence about the quality of provision and outcomes for this group of children and young people.

We have identified a representative sample of 15 local authorities, based on the estimated size of the population of children educated otherwise than at school, and the location and type of the local authority, for example whether it is inner city, rural, urban, coastal or in a conurbation. Ofsted publishes the names of providers and areas visited for survey work in the final report rather than in advance of our visits, enabling us to carry out short notice visits that give us a better picture of practice on the ground. It would, therefore, be inappropriate to provide the individual local authority names at this stage.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Home Education: Special Educational Needs

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has provided to each local authority in England and Wales for children with special educational needs who are educated at home in each of the last five years. [297850]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 5 November 2009]*: The dedicated schools grant (DSG) includes funding for high cost pupils for whom the local authority is financially responsible. The DSG does not earmark funds for specific groups of pupils and it is for local authorities to deploy their resources appropriately to meet local needs. Where local authorities fund pupils with special educational needs who are home educated, they should include these pupils in their returns of alternative provision in order to secure a DSG unit of funding for them.

We are not in a position to comment on the practice for Wales, as it is the responsibility of the National Assembly for Wales to provide this information.

Islamic Shakhsiyah Foundation

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken to assess the suitability of the Islamic Shakhsiyah Foundation as *(a)* a school provider and *(b)* an organisation receiving funds from his Department. [297093]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* The Independent Schools Standards (England) Regulations 2003, as amended, require that proprietors of independent schools must have a criminal background check conducted to confirm their suitability. In common with all other independent schools the CRB check on the proprietor of the two Islamic Shakhsiyah Foundation schools in Haringey and Slough has been undertaken. Beyond this the proprietor must ensure that the school meets all the requirements of the regulations including the quality of the teaching, the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and the welfare, health and safety of pupils. Ofsted conducts regular inspections against these standards and any failings are taken up with the school to ensure they are put right.

DCSF asked Ofsted to inspect both schools in 2007. Both were found to be meeting the standard on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.

There have been follow up inspections of both institutions since and they will continue to be subject to regular inspections.

Islamic Shakhsiyah Foundation has received funding from Haringey and Slough local authority for early years free entitlement in relation to their nursery provision. In terms of free entitlement funding the Department sets the framework for how this is distributed in the statutory code of practice. All settings must meet Early Years Foundation Stage requirements. It is for local authorities to decide whether providers meet the criteria, and are therefore suitable to receive funding for the free entitlement.

Learning and Skills Improvement Service: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department provided to the Learning and Skills Improvement Service in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion this constituted of the total budget of the Service. [293408]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) was established in October 2008 and, therefore, did not receive funding prior to that. However, LSIS became operational on 1 October 2008 following the merger of the Quality Improvement Agency (QIA) and the Centre for Excellence in Leadership (CEL).

In 2008-09 the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (then DIUS) received funding from DCSF for both those organisations mentioned above totalling £44.8 million.

National Curriculum Tests

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what impact assessment was made of proposals to change the date of standard assessment tests from May to June 2011. [298170]

Mr. Coaker: The recommendation to change the date of the key stage 2 tests was made by the Expert Group on Assessment, set up by the Secretary of State to advise on the future of testing and assessment across the key stages. The group took into account a range of stakeholder's views including schools, local authorities, academics, social partners and others. The Government accepted the group's recommendations in full in May 2009. The Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) is currently consulting schools, local authorities (LAs) and other interested stakeholders on the date of the 2011 tests.

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what effect the change of the date of standard assessment tests from May to June 2011 will have on opportunities for learning outside the classroom in the summer term 2011; and if he will make a statement. [298171]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We do not expect the change of timing for the National Curriculum tests to have any major effect on opportunities for learning outside the classroom in the summer term. Activities should not, and need not, be left to the summer months. For it to be truly effective, learning outside the classroom should take place on a regular basis and be informed by what teachers want learners to achieve. We know schools recognise the importance of ensuring every child has access to learning beyond the classroom as such experiences excite young people, deepen their understanding of classroom subjects, and help develop their own mechanisms for identifying and managing risk. Learning outside the classroom is vital to make young people independent, confident and self-reliant.

Ofsted: Disclosure of Information

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many calls have been received on Ofsted's whistleblower hotline since the service was established. [295567]

Dawn Primarolo: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated October 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

A total of 941 calls have been made to Ofsted's safeguarding children whistleblower hotline since its inception on 1 April 2009. Twenty two of these calls qualified under our whistleblower procedures and have been handled accordingly. In addition to the hotline, Ofsted has received 29 whistleblowing allegations by email or letter.

A significant number of calls to the hotline were not from whistleblowers (360) but were general queries. A further 258 calls were complaints about local and childcare services, but were not from 'whistleblowers'. These were dealt with within our normal procedures.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Primary Education: Pupil Numbers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many surplus primary school places there were in each local authority area in each year since 2005. [298197]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: A table showing the number of surplus primary school places by local authority area between 2005 and 2009 has been placed in the House Libraries for viewing.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities his Department has directed to reduce the number of surplus primary school places in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [298198]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department has not directed any local authority to reduce the number of surplus primary school places in any year since 2005. Local authorities are responsible for managing school places and deciding the most appropriate pattern of school provision for their area.

Schools

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether a school may receive funding from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* local authorities without (i) a registration number and (ii) having been inspected. [298316]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* Local authorities provide funding for maintained schools, and can also provide funding for three and four-year-olds in independent schools.

With regard to maintained schools, a local authority should usually provide funding for a new school from 15 months before its opening, as set out in the School Finance Regulations 2008. A school is issued with a registration number by the DCSF shortly after the DCSF has been notified by the decision maker that a decision to approve the statutory proposals for a new school has been made. Therefore a new school will have a registration number before it is funded. The focus of inspection is on outcomes for pupils and the school needs to be operating before that can be assessed, therefore maintained schools do receive funding prior to being inspected.

With regard to independent schools, before any independent school can be entered on to the independent schools register it must meet the standards set out in "The Education (Independent School Standards)(England)Regulations 2003 (as amended)". Prior to registration being granted the Department would commission an inspection by Ofsted who would provide a report to officials in order to ascertain how far the school goes to meet the standards required. The school would be required to rectify any regulatory failings prior to registration. Only then would an independent school be able to receive funding for three and four-year-olds.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of progress towards his Department's targets under its policy of extended secondary and primary schools. [298642]

Dawn Primarolo: By 30 September 2009, over 19,000 maintained schools were offering access to the core offer of extended services. This represents 90 per cent. of primary schools and 90 per cent. of secondary schools. All schools should be providing access to extended services by 2010.

Schools: Discipline

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will initiate a survey of school discipline. [298663]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* We have recently received a considerable amount of information on school discipline, so do not consider a further study necessary at this time. This information includes the recent series of reports on school behaviour from Sir Alan Steer, school inspection evidence from Ofsted and a range of surveys conducted by our partners, including teacher professional associations and the National Audit Office. In 2007/08, Ofsted judged that behaviour in 93 per cent. of primary and 72 per cent. of secondary schools was good or outstanding. On 30 September 2009 the Government launched a new Behaviour Challenge to local authorities and schools, making clear our ambition that by 2012 all schools will either have a good or outstanding Ofsted rating on behaviour, or be on track to reach one at their next inspection. The Behaviour Challenge will ensure delivery of the guarantee we made in the White Paper on 21st Century Schools earlier this year that all schools will have good behaviour, strong discipline, order and safety.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department plans to spend on schools in each of the next five years. [298859]

Mr. Coaker: In November 2007, the Government announced the indicative budgets for the dedicated schools grant from 2008 to 2011. The indicative dedicated schools grant for 2010-11 for England is £30,959 million. The overall school revenue funding will be approximately £42.1 billion in 2010-11. We cannot confirm what the education funding settlement will be from 2011-12 onwards in advance of the next Spending Review.

Schools: Standards

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which maintained *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* special schools Ofsted classified in each local authority as (i) outstanding and (ii) in special measures on the latest date for which figures are available. [294607]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM chief inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have been given notices to improve by Ofsted since 1 September 2009. [298738]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* Ofsted publish these data on a termly basis and this information will not be available until January 2010.

Schools: Finance

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1938-9, on schools: finance, which individual programmes and corresponding allocations are aggregated as *(a)* children in care proposals and *(b)* teenage pregnancy grant. [297334]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The individual Programmes included under the heading Children in Care Proposals in the DCSF's Departmental Annual Report 2009, table 8.4, are provided in the following list:

Fostering Change

Recruit foster carers from a diverse range of backgrounds

Choice Protects Topslive - fosterline contract

In the child's trust fund, £100 per year for every child who spends the year in care.

Independent visitors

Social work practices

Multi Systemic Therapy

Family Drug and Alcohol Courts

Virtual Head teacher and the Private Tutoring Pilots

Social Pedagogy in residential care

MTFC - Multi dimension Treatment Foster Care

Right2B Cared4

Staying with foster carers until 21

Promote the use of Family Group Conferencing through a programme of national events and training

Develop a training resource for practitioners drawing on the conclusions of research on the identification of neglect

To update the guidance on Promoting the Health of looked after children, clarifying the functions and responsibilities of those involved in ensuring that children in care receive the health services they need

National Centre for Excellence in Residential Children's Care (NCERCC) (originally from CP Topslice)

IRO Training and support

NMS-Non Maintained Specialist Schools

Children Act Guidance

Training for practitioners/governors

Funding allocations are yet to be finalised for the programmes.

(b) The £2.0 million that is shown on table 8.4 under the heading Teenage Pregnancy Grant forms part of a larger amount of funding that is allocated through Area Based Grants (ABG), which amount to £27.5 million as a Department. This level of funding has been announced to local authorities (LA's) through the ABG mechanism.

In addition to this we have a further teenage pregnancy budget within the Department totalling £5.85 million, which funds the TPG media campaign and secondment costs of Regional Teenage Pregnancy Coordinators.

Sure Start Programme

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the effects of Sure Start children's centres on low income families. [297948]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Evaluation of Sure Start report The Impact of Sure Start Local Programmes on Three Year Olds and Their Families', was published in March 2008. This report found a number of positive impacts for children in Sure Start Local Programme (SSLP) areas. Parents of three-year-old children showed less negative parenting while providing their children with a better home learning environment. Three-year-old children areas had better social development with higher levels of positive social behaviour and independence/self-regulation than children in similar areas not having a SSLP. Families living in SSLP areas used more child- and family-related services than those living elsewhere. The effects associated with SSLPs appeared to apply to all of the resident population sub groups assessed, including those on low incomes.

In February 2009, DCSF published the 'Sure Start Children's Centres Survey of Parents' research by TNS. This found very high levels of satisfaction with children's centres by users of centres. It also found that those using centres closely matched the local community.

The report also commented that

> "there is no evidence that any sub-groups within the community are monopolising the centres. Equally, the results suggest that no sub-groups are being excluded from or failing to access the centres."

Further evaluation of the impact of children's centres will be published in due course.

Teachers: Training

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teacher training entrants did not gain qualified teacher status within 12 months of beginning initial teacher training in each year since 1997. [297044]

Mr. Coaker: The number and percentage of final year initial teacher trainees who gained qualified teacher status (QTS) are given in the following tables. This information is available from 1998/99 onwards for college-based courses and 2001/02 for employment-based routes (EBR) and relates to initial teacher training (ITT) courses of all lengths—not just one year.

For academic year 2008/09, 92 per cent. of postgraduate entrants and 91 per cent. of employment based entrants were on courses intended to be for one year, but only 1 per cent. of entrants to undergraduate courses were on courses intended to last one year.

Information in the requested format could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Initial teacher trainees: final year trainees gaining QTS via college based courses, years: 1998/99 to 2007/08, coverage: England

	ITT route					
	Postgraduate			*Undergraduate*		
		Trainees gaining QTS			*Trainees gaining QTS*	
	Number of final year trainees	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number of final year trainees*	*Number*	*Percentage*
1998/99	17,430	15,160	87.0	9,770	8,910	91.2
1999/2000	17,170	14,850	86.5	7,490	6,850	91.5
2000/01	18,680	16,150	86.5	7,040	6,490	92.1
2001/02	19,480	16,940	87.0	6,870	6,340	92.2
2002/03	21,590	19,180	88.8	6,980	6,250	89.5
2003/04	24,590	21,460	87.3	6,380	5,880	92.1
2004/05	25,200	21,780	86.4	6,160	5,360	87.1
2005/06	25,100	21,600	86.0	6,120	5,410	88.4
2006/07	24,660	21,080	85.5	6,690	5,900	88.2
2007/08	23,420	20,260	86.5	7,040	6,210	88.2

Notes:
1. Includes trainees from universities and other higher education institutions, school centred initial teacher training and Open university but excludes employment based routes (EBR).
2. Those who have gained QTS does not include final year trainees who are: 'known not to have completed the course'; have 'undefined outcome'; are yet to complete their course; those with withheld QTS (including those where their skills test were not met, their standards were not met and where both their standards and skills test were not met) and those where the skills test has not been taken (including those whose standards were met and those whose standards were not met).
3. Numbers are individually rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
TDA's Performance Profiles

Initial teacher trainees: final year trainees gaining QTS via employment based routes, years: 2001/02 to 2007/08, coverage: England

	ITT route:		
	Employee based routes		
		Trainees gaining QTS	
	Number of final year trainees gain	*Number*	*Percentage*
2001/02	2,440	2,210	90.7
2002/03	4,030	3,670	91.1
2003/04	4,950	4,470	90.4
2004/05	7,220	6,600	91.5
2005/06	6,970	6,090	87.5
2006/07	7,840	7,120	90.8
2007/08	6,990	6,510	93.1

Notes:
1. Those who have gained QTS does not include final year trainees who are: 'known not to have completed the course'; have 'undefined outcome'; are yet to complete their course; those with withheld QTS (including those where their skills test were not met, their standards were not met and where both their standards and skills test were not met) and those where the skills test has not been taken (including those whose standards were met and those whose standards were not met).
2. Numbers are individually rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
TDA 's Performance Profiles

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Training and Development Agency for Schools has taken to encourage applications from new high-quality teacher training providers. [298471]

Mr. Coaker: Neither the Department nor the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) is actively seeking to accredit any new providers of initial teacher training (ITT) as there is a sufficiently good quality regional spread of provision to meet the demand for training and to deliver the ITT recruitment targets which are determined by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State.

If an organisation or consortia approaches the TDA expressing interest in becoming an accredited ITT provider, the TDA considers the organisation's proposed training, location, and its experience in training or education. If the proposed training demonstrates the potential to add value to existing ITT provision, the TDA will work with the organisation to broker a partnership with an existing ITT provider. This enables the Agency to ensure that new providers are not lost to the overall ITT market and allows new providers to enter the ITT market, without flooding it by working in partnership with an experienced ITT provider.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Training and Development Agency for Schools takes when Ofsted grades an initial teacher training provider at C or below. [298472]

Mr. Coaker: The Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) is given the power by statute to accredit initial teacher training (ITT) providers, and in doing so it is required to have regard to the quality of providers' courses when allocating training places and funding.

Providers inspected up to July 2008 were graded according to Management and Quality Assurance, Training and Standards. These grades are then translated into TDA Quality Categories A, B and C using agreed calculations on the permutations of grades. A Grade 3 automatically results in Quality Category C designation. Ofsted grades Initial Teacher Training (ITT) providers on the following scale: Grade 1: Outstanding; Grade 2: Good; Grade 3: Satisfactory; and Grade 4: Inadequate.

When initial teacher training providers are placed in quality category C, they are treated less favourably for allocation purposes than training providers placed in quality categories A or B: they are not allowed to bid for additional training places and when cuts are required in the total number of training places to be allocated to all training providers, allocations to quality category C providers are reduced first.

There are currently 15 category C providers from a total of 233 ITT providers.

When a provider is categorised as a C provider the Agency:

(i) Requires the provider to submit an Improvement Plan indicating actions to be taken to remedy any issues raised by Ofsted, and to indicate how it proposes to improve quality. A written evaluation of the plan is sent to the provider.

(ii) The provider is given documentation on how to construct effective Improvement Plans—this has been preceded by consultancy support on Self-Evaluation and Improvement Planning, and a series of workshops on the topic.

(iii) The provider is visited by the Head of Quality and Inspection at the TDA and/or one of the consultants who work in the team. The Improvement Plan is reviewed, and recommendations given for refinement and clarity, with an emphasis on securing best outcomes and impact.

(iv) The provider submits an update on activity and achievements against the Improvement Plan each term.

(v) The provider receives consultancy support to secure improvements to provision, and is monitored through visits by the Quality and Inspection Team.

(vi) The provider's annual Self-Evaluation Document is reviewed in detail, and written feedback given to the provider, with tailored support and/or intervention as appropriate. This may involve the provider receiving guidance from a high quality ITT provider, a consultant or a subject/phase specialist.

(vii) The provider automatically receives a full tariff inspection at the start of the subsequent inspection cycle.

(viii) The TDA has a limited number of training places to allocate across the sector. As required, places are allocated on a quality basis. Therefore, where cuts are required, category C providers are first in line for reduced numbers. Decisions taken on reducing places are related to the phase and/or subjects offered. These places however, can be reinstated if the quality of provision improves.

(ix) Where, exceptionally, a provider has received a Grade 3 in two inspections, senior representatives from the provider have met with the TDA's Head of Quality and Inspection. The provider is required to produce an Improvement Plan, and is still monitored. However, funding for support activity is curtailed. These providers have also been informed that they have a limited time to secure improvement, before the next inspection as further cuts will be initiated. Given the provider's track record, the TDA would review (taking regional and other factors into account) whether to continue allocating places to any provider which fails to achieve improvement.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teacher training providers have had their number of places reduced for *(a)* five or more successive years, *(b)* the last four years, *(c)* the last three years and *(d)* the last two years. [298473]

Mr. Coaker: The number of initial teacher training (ITT) providers allocated fewer places by the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) for more than one consecutive year in the period ending 2009/10 is given in the following table.

ITT providers: consecutive years' decrease in allocated places to 2009/10, 2005/06 to 2009/10, coverage: England

Numbers of years of consecutive falls in places allocated	*Accredited ITT providers (number)*
5 years	7
Last 4 years	34
Last 3 years	59
Last 2 years	77

Note:
The figures are cumulative, so for example, the 77 providers with falls for the last two years, includes the 59 providers with falls for the last three years.
Source:
TDAs Trainee Numbers Census

Vetting and Barring Scheme Review

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects Sir Roger Singleton to publish his review of the vetting and barring scheme. [295511]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 28 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 395W.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 11 November 2009

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Concessions

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the administrative cost to the Government of running the national concessionary bus fares scheme has been in each year since its introduction. [298158]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 9 November 2009]*: Although the statutory minimum concession is funded by central Government, it is administered by local authorities known as travel concession authorities (TCAs). They have the statutory responsibility for issuing passes to those eligible and ensuring that bus operators offer, and are properly reimbursed for, free off-peak local travel anywhere in England.

The Department for Transport does not hold figures for how much it costs each authority to administer the national scheme.

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many Christmas functions arranged by his Department and its agencies *(a)* the then Secretary of State, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* officials of its agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2008; what the cost to the public purse was; and if he will make a statement. [295456]

Chris Mole: The then Secretary of State for Transport only attended two Christmas functions that were arranged by the central Department (none by agencies). Details as follows:

> He hosted Christmas drinks for journalists on 16 December 2008 at a cost of £645.82.
>
> He also attended the Private Office Christmas party on 17 December. There was no cost to the public purse.

No official funds were used for internal departmental Christmas parties/functions attended by officials of the Department in 2008. The information on the number of Christmas functions attend by officials is not held centrally, therefore could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department for Transport's expenditure and acceptance of hospitality is conducted in accordance with the principals of Government Accounting and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on Christmas (i) cards, (ii) parties and (iii) decorations in the last 12 months. [299262]

Chris Mole: The amounts spent by the Department for Transport (central) and its agencies in the last 12 months.

			£ (including VAT)
	(i) Cards	*(ii) Parties*	*(iii) Decorations*
(a) Central Department	1,395	0	1,052
(b) Executive Agencies	2,993	0	1,147

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the change in *(a)* the average delay time experienced by drivers and *(b)* levels of carbon emissions resulting from that change as a result of recent changes to the toll payment arrangements at the Dartford Crossing; and if he will take steps to reduce (i) congestion and (ii) carbon emissions on the A282 on the approaches to the Dartford Crossing. [296400]

Chris Mole: Between M25 junction 2 and M25 junction 30, (which includes the Dartford Crossing) the estimated average delay per journey during the period March to August 2009 compared to the same months in 2008 decreased by 0.4 minutes northbound and increased by 0.7 minutes southbound.

The months of March to August have been used for comparison of average delays per journey before and after the revised charges came into effect on 15 November 2008.

The Department has made no specific estimates of the levels of carbon emissions resulting from the revision of the charges in November 2008.

The Department for Transport and the Highways Agency are committed to improving the levels of service experienced by users of the Dartford Crossing.

In the short term the Highways Agency are in the process of implementing a package of measures, including the introduction of average speed cameras and further traffic management technology, to reduce the number of incidents at the Crossing, which will improve journey times.

Additionally, in April 2009, the Department published its initial analysis of the current and possible future capacity constraints at the Dartford-Thurrock River Crossing. On the basis of the findings and conclusions of the analysis, we announced further work to investigate what can be done in the short to medium term to improve the level of service provided by the existing Crossing.

The study recommended further work on two possible measures, recognising that each had the potential to generate some small benefits by increasing throughput while avoiding impacts on safety. The first set of measures could see changes to the configuration of the toll plaza, signing and promotion of DART-Tags to see whether this would improve traffic flows. The second set of measures could entail one-way tolling with the removal of the southbound plaza to allow a larger improved northbound plaza. This work is being taken forward and is expected to take 12 to 18 months to complete.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2009. [299563]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has paid 91.01 per cent. of valid invoices received in September 2009 within 10 days measured against the total number of 20,406 valid invoices received; and 92.99 per cent. of valid invoices received in October 2009 within 10 days measured against the total number of 21,306 valid invoices received.

Departmental Dismissal

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many staff have *(a)* been dismissed and *(b)* had their contract terminated by his Department in each of the last five years; what the reason was in each case; and what the severance costs in relation to (i) dismissal and (ii) contract termination were in each such year. [290591]

Chris Mole: The information requested is as follows:

Dismissals

The total number of employees who have been dismissed in the last five years is broken down by category in the following table together with an indication as to whether severance costs were involved:

	Number
2004-05	
Discipline (without severance costs)	11
Inefficiency (with severance costs)	12
Inefficiency (without severance costs)	18
2005-06	
Discipline (without severance costs)	28
Inefficiency (with severance costs)	11
Inefficiency (without severance costs)	23
2006-07	
Discipline (without severance costs)	11
Inefficiency (with severance costs)	12
Inefficiency (without severance costs)	48
2007-08	
Discipline (without severance costs)	14
Inefficiency (with severance costs)	19
Inefficiency (without severance costs)	18
2008-09	
Discipline (without severance costs)	13
Inefficiency (with severance costs)	7
Inefficiency (without severance costs)	24

In addition there have also been seven other discipline (with costs) dismissals during the period 2004-09. However these cases have not been broken down further by category in order to protect the confidentiality of individuals.

There have also been a further 68 dismissals during the period 2004-09 for which details can not be broken down further. To do so would incur disproportionate cost.

The severance costs for dismissals are as follows:

Dismissals

	£
2004-05	21,203.87
2005-06	50,154.11
2006-07	64,930.10
2007-08	170,515.91
2008-09	129,710.00

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and Vehicle and Operator Services Agency are unable to provide this information as it can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Contract Termination

The total number of employees who have had their contract terminated over the last five years is broken down by category in the following table:

	Number
2004-05	
Probation	28
2005-06	
Failed training	8
2006-07	
Failed training	7
2007-08	
Probation	11
Failed training	6
2008-09	
Probation	21

In addition there have also been seven other dismissals during 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09.

However these cases have not been broken down further by category in order to protect the confidentiality of individuals.

Departmental Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the *(a)* energy rating and *(b)* energy band of each building occupied by his Department and its agencies was in each year for which figures are available. [299690]

Chris Mole: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 200-01W.

Departmental Fraud

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many employees of his Department were convicted of an offence of fraud in each of the last 10 years. [297038]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport was formed on 29 May 2002. To date 10 employees have been convicted of an offence of fraud.

An annual breakdown is unavailable. Where figures are fewer than five in any year, it is Department for Transport policy to withhold details on grounds of individual confidentiality.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many staff in his Department were employed on the management of freedom of information requests submitted to his Department in each year since 2005; and how much his Department spent on the management of such requests in each such year. [299129]

Chris Mole: Freedom of information requests are not handled centrally by most parts of the Department of Transport and it is therefore not possible, without incurring disproportionate costs, to say precisely how many staff were employed in the management of those requests, or how much has been spent on such management. The central Department and each of its agencies do however have central teams that advise on the handling of requests, provide guidance and training, and monitor performance etc., and the total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff employed in these teams across the Department is as follows:

Financial year	*Number of FTE staff*
2005-06	18.36
2006-07	17.68
2007-08	15.86
2008-09	14.82

More detailed information about the staffing of these central teams has, following a recent FOI request, been published on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/foi/responses/2009/aug/foi5554/foi5554.pdf

An assessment of the cost of freedom of information within Government can be found in Frontier Economics 2006 report "Independent Review of the Freedom of Information Act". A copy of this report is available in the House of Commons Library.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions his Department has had with UK companies about tendering to supply technology for the forthcoming hard shoulder running projects. [298512]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* The Highways Agency has had discussions with a number of potential suppliers (both UK- and overseas-based) regarding a technical solution for monitoring the hard shoulder prior to opening.

A worldwide search of available systems for hard shoulder monitoring has been conducted which included discussions with potential suppliers. There is only one operational UK-based system available and that is currently being used on the M42 Active Traffic Management Pilot.

The Highways Agency intends to review the performance of available commercial off the shelf hard shoulder monitoring technologies in order to produce a functional specification. This specification can then be used to competitively tender for an end to end solution for monitoring the hard shoulder, for both future managed motorway schemes involving use of the hard shoulder as a running lane and the technology refresh of existing schemes.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with which organisations his Department has had exclusivity agreements for information technology *(a)* hardware and *(b)* software in each of the last five years; how many such agreements have been breached in each year; and what the cost to his Department was of each breach. [299694]

Chris Mole: The only known case in the Department for Transport is that the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency has a PFI contract with Siemens since April 2005 which includes an exclusivity agreement for the provision of hardware (but not software) to MOT Testing Stations. There have been no breaches associated with it. All other agencies have no such agreements.

No central record is kept for the Department for Transport (Central) and this information can therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, it is felt that the number and scope of such agreements will be very small, if any.

Departmental Manpower

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many staff there were in his Department *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [292071]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport was formed in 2002 and the figures used below are Full Time Equivalent as shown in our 2008-09 Annual Report:

	Number
March 2003	15,305
March 2009	18,545

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department was in the last 12 months. [299594]

Paul Clark: No special advisers are provided with an allocated Government car and driver. As with all civil servants, special advisers may use an official car or taxi in properly defined circumstances. Details of such use is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his Department's policy is on payment of the London living wage. [295248]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* The Department for Transport does not have an HR policy on the London living wage as it does not employ staff in roles where pay rates at or close to the London living wage would be appropriate.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department and its agencies in 2008-09. [299278]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport reimburses staff only for expenses necessarily incurred in the course of official business. Expenses reimbursed to press officers in 2008-09 are set out in the following table where readily available:

2008-09

	£
Department for Transport - Central	4,208.88
Driving Standards Agency	537.00
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	2,893.33
Highways Agency	14,453.11
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	656.80

The Highways Agency (HA) has seven regional press officers to support its new Traffic Officer service and seven regional control centres. These press officers are employed to raise awareness of the Traffic Officers and the agency's role as network operator for England's motorways and major A roads. These press officers have to travel between the Regional Control Centres, outstations and Highways Agency offices, as well as travelling to media opportunities and to accompany journalists during visits to the HA network and premises.

Press officer activities in most executive agencies are not carried out by staff or units solely dedicated to this purpose. The Government Car and Despatch Agency and the Vehicle Certification Agency have no press officers, and the Marine and Coastguard Agency are unable to identify press officer reimbursements without disproportionate cost.

Departmental Political Activities

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1446W, on party conferences, how much Passenger Focus spent sending representatives to attend each of the party political conferences in 2009; and whether prior permission was sought from the Cabinet Office for Passenger Focus to attend. [298715]

Chris Mole: In accordance with Cabinet Office guidance, Passenger Focus sought the Department for Transport's approval before attending. The cost of attendance is a matter for Passenger Focus itself.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with which providers *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies had a contract to provide postal services in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, (iii) between 1 January 2009 and 1 July 2009 and (iv) since 1 July 2009. [299423]

Chris Mole: The requested information is not available in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have travelled by (i) car, (ii) rail and (iii) air on official business in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [298712]

Chris Mole: Department for Transport records on travel are not kept by length of journey, and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code, Travel by Ministers and the Civil Service Management Code.

Immobilisation of Vehicles: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many cars have been impounded in Leeds North West constituency in each year since 2005; and at what cost in each such year. [299640]

Paul Clark: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency does not keep the information in the format requested. However the number of vehicles wheel-clamped and/or impounded by the enforcement team based in Leeds is as follows:

Financial year	*Vehicles wheel clamped in Leeds*	*Vehicles impounded in Leeds*
2005-06	1,011	748
2006-07	2,148	1,301
2007-08	2,007	787
2008-09	1,559	562

It is not possible to provide cost information for the Leeds North West constituency.

Motorcycles

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what reasons motorcycles were not included in his Department's research project on the future of urban transport; and if he will make a statement. [299545]

Mr. Khan: The report by the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit on Urban Mobility, which the unit undertook jointly with the Department for Transport and other Government Departments, provided a strategic analysis of the impact of all forms of surface transport, including motorcycles, on people that live and work in cities and towns. It concluded that the impacts went well beyond the benefits of mobility and economic consequences of congestion, with poorly planned transport causing significant adverse impacts in terms of air quality, ill health, noise and road accidents.

The report concluded that a new vision was required to provide greater choice for all travellers and to take better account of the needs not only of those travelling but of residents and businesses. The Department's paper "The Future of Urban Transport" responds by offering a vision of urban transport that envisages enhanced mobility through a wider choice of journey, reduced congestion, better health and enjoyable urban spaces.

Motorway Service Areas

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs. Villiers), 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2279W, on motorway service areas, when he plans to publish the detailed valuation study; and if he will make a statement. [299008]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency commissioned an investigation into whether potential exists for the disposal of the remaining 20 Government owned motorway service area (MSA) sites. The resulting report will be published by the end of the year, and copies placed in the Libraries of the House at that time.

Road Signs and Markings

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has made any recent assessment of the degree to which the meanings of individual road signs are understood by *(a)* motorists, *(b)* cyclists and *(c)* pedestrians. [298401]

Mr. Khan: Familiarity and understanding of traffic signs are an integral part of the theory and practical driving test. The Department for Transport last published research on understanding of traffic signs in March 2004 in a report entitled 'Increasing Understanding of Traffic Signs'. The research considered a limited number of traffic signs and did not provide detailed analysis by road user category.

A further research project has been agreed to inform the ongoing traffic signs policy review. This will include detailed analysis by road user category. We plan to commission this work later this year.

Road Traffic Control and Immobilisation of Vehicles

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions his Department has had with the *(a)* Association of Chief Police Officers, *(b)* Metropolitan Police and *(c)* Secretary of State for the Home Department on the (i) time taken to clear the scene of motorway incidents and (ii) activities of companies which use wheel-clamping to enforce parking restrictions on private property in the last three years. [294769]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency (HA) and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) have entered into a strategic agreement setting out how they will work together to improve the way road traffic incidents on the Strategic Road Network are managed.

The HA/ACPO Partnership Board meets three times a year when a number of issues, including incident clear-up times, are discussed. The last meeting was held on 4 August 2009.

The Secretary of State for Transport met with ACPO recently.

My right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Transport and my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State, the hon. Member for Gillingham Paul Clark, have met with/spoken to Home Office Ministers. Departmental officials are in regular contact with their opposite numbers in the Home Office about the activities of companies that use vehicle immobilisation and/or removal to enforce parking restrictions on private land.

Roads: Finance

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on the (i) A11 Fiveways to Thetford improvement, (ii) A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton improvement, (iii) A21 South Pembury to Hastings route improvements, (iv) A21 Tonbridge to Pembury dualling scheme and (v) A23 Handcross to Warninglid improvement; and what the total projected cost of each is; [298819]

(2) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on the (i) A30 Temple to Higher Carblake improvement, (ii) A38 Derby Junctions scheme, (iii) A45/46 Tollbar End improvement scheme, (iv) A57/A628 Mottram in Longdendale, Hollingworth and Tintwistle bypass and (v) M1 junctions 10 to 13 improvements; and what the total projected cost of each is; [298820]

(3) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on the (i) A5-M1 Link (Dunstable Northern Bypass), (ii) M23 Hooley junction improvement, (iii) A1 Peterborough to Wittering junction improvement, (iv) A453 widening (M1 junction 24 to A52 Nottingham) scheme and (v) Chichester area and A27 transport proposals; and what the total projected cost of each is; [298821]

(4) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on the (i) M6 Bescot Viaduct and (ii) A419 Covingham and Kingsdown noise fences; and what the total projected cost of each is; [298822]

(5) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on the (i) A49 Stapleton Crossroads junction improvement scheme, (ii) A5/A444 Red Gate junction improvement, (iii) M5 junction 3 to Newton farm resurfacing scheme, (iv) A11 Ketteringham Station Lane improvements and (v) A1 Tuxford filter drain refurbishment; and what the total projected cost of each is; [298823]

(6) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on the (i) A20 New Dover Road lay-by improvements, (ii) A56 Haslingden gas pipeline, (iii) A40 Churcham flood relief scheme, (iv) A40 Highnam Woods slope stabilisation scheme and (v) M11 junctions 8 to 9 major maintenance scheme; and what the total projected cost of each is; [298824]

(7) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on the (i) A1 Cawledge Burn wildlife crossing, (ii) A27 Southerham railway bridge refurbishment, (iii) A45/A452 Stonebridge Island Disability Discrimination Acts compliance work, (v) M4 junctions 18 to 19 central reserve barrier replacement and (v) M5 junctions 15 to 17 central reserve barrier replacement; and what the total projected cost of each is; [298825]

(8) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on the (i) M5 junctions 18 to 18a Lawrence Weston overbridge replacement, (ii) A1 Colsterworth to Little Ponton gap closures, (iii) M6 hard shoulder strengthening works, (v) A38 Carkeel Roundabout footbridge and (v) M6 junction 7 to Perry Barr southbound resurfacing; and what the total projected cost of each is; [298826]

(9) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on the (i) M6 junctions 18 to 17 resurfacing works, (ii) A1 Stamford heavy goods vehicles overtaking ban, (iii) M25 junction 24 link overnight safety work, (iv) M5 junctions 25 to 26 Poundisford drainage and resurfacing scheme and (v) A12 Witham major maintenance and improvement scheme; and what the total projected cost of each is; [298827]

(10) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on the (i) M1 junctions 32 to 35a managed motorway scheme, (ii) A2 Kingston Bridleway bridge, (iii) A483 Pant Embankment stabilisation and carriageway repairs, (v) A13-A1089 safety improvements near Thurrock and (v) A21 Pembury Bypass slip road widening works; and what the total projected cost of each is; [298828]

(11) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on the (i) A66 Bowes Interchange, (ii) A1/A69 Denton Interchange, (iii) M5 junction 29 east of Exeter improvement, (iv) M62 junctions 25 to 30 managed motorway scheme and (v) A56 lay-by improvements; and what the total projected cost of each is; [298829]

(12) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on the (i) M25 north viaduct maintenance at junction 28 and the A12 Brook Street interchange, (ii) A160/A180 improvements at Immingham, (iii) A1 East Ancroft to Cat Inn scheme, (iv) A66 Cross Lanes to Lowfields scheme and (v) A66 Southorpe to Hutton Magna scheme; and what the total projected cost of each is; [298830]

(13) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on the (i) A21 Riverhead Bridge refurbishment, (ii) A1 Newlands Burn otter crossing, (iii) A1 Newton Burn otter crossing, (iv) A1 Oxford to Scremerston scheme and (v) A1 River Aln wildlife crossing; and what the total projected cost of each is; [298831]

(14) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on the (i) A66 Viewley Hill to Long Newton scheme, (ii) M1 junctions 28 to 31 managed motorways scheme, (iii) M4 junction 19 to 20 and M5 junctions 15 to 17 managed motorways scheme, (iv) M6 Birmingham Box Phase 3 managed motorways scheme and (v) M25 junctions 17 to 10 controlled motorway scheme; and what the total projected cost of each is; [298832]

(15) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on the (i) A1 Birtley to Eighton Lodge scheme, (ii) A194(M) Whitemare Pool interchange microprocessor optimised vehicle activation scheme, (iii) A184 Whitemare Pool interchange, (iv) A66(M) Darlington Spur scheme and (v) A1 Blaydon to Kenton Bar scheme; and what the total projected cost of each is; [298833]

(16) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on the (i) A50/A500 Queensway Island road marking works, (ii) A63 Castle Street improvement, (iii) A5111 Raynesway River bridge works, (iv) M60 junctions 15 to 12 lane gain and (v) A14 Kettering Bypass widening; and what the total projected cost of each is; [298834]

(17) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on the (i) A1 Belford Bypass road renewal, (ii) M62 junctions 35 to 36 major road renewal, (iii) A19/A1058 Coast Road junction improvement, (iv) A180 Croxton to Ulceby scheme and (v) A27 Southwick Tunnel 2009 closures; and what the total projected cost of each is; [298835]

(18) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on (i) M11 junctions 6 to 8 improvements, (ii) M11 and A120 Stansted Generation 2 airport access, (iii) A556 Knutsford to Bowdon environmental improvement, (iv) A1(M) major maintenance at Sawtry and (v) M6 junction 32 to 33 bridge maintenance; and what the total projected cost of each is; [298836]

(19) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on the (i) A27 Southerham Bridge works, (ii) M6 junctions 11A to 19 scheme, (iii) M54 to M6/M6 toll link road, (iv) M1 junction 19 scheme and (v) A1/B6387 Twyford Bridge junction improvement; and what the projected cost of each is; [298837]

(20) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on the (i) M25 junctions 5 to 7 widening, (ii) M20 junction 10A scheme, (iii) A21 Kippings Cross to Lamberhurst improvement, (iv) A1 Elkesley Junctions improvement and (v) A1 Gateshead and Newcastle western bypass; and what the total projected cost of each is; [298838]

(21) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on the (i) A64 York to Scarborough proposed dualling, (ii) A19/A1067 Seaton Burn junction improvements, (iii) A19 Testos junction improvements, (iv) A47 Acle Straight and (v) M25 junctions 23 to 27 widening; and what the total projected cost of each is. [298839]

Chris Mole: A table which gives the estimated costs for the schemes listed above and spend on them as at the end of October 2009 has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

For major schemes, total project costs are given as range estimates in accordance with the Highways Agency's operating procedures. Start of works and completion dates have been given for the major schemes (where appropriate) which have been used in the assumptions underpinning the range estimates. Range estimates are updated at key stages during the development of a project and will take into account any changes in start or completion dates.

The non-major schemes are a combination of routine and major maintenance projects, local network management schemes (LNMS) and Fiscal Stimulus projects. Forecasts are point estimates based on best information available and are subject to changes in priorities and affordability.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the benefit-cost ratios of all road schemes in the targeted programme of improvements *(a)* were at programme entry and *(b)* are at present, taking into account (i) revisions to the Approach to Transport Appraisal guidance and (ii) recent changes to the monetary cost of carbon emissions. [296881]

Chris Mole: This information is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Thameslink

Patrick Hall: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many additional seats will be available for passengers travelling between Bedford and London St. Pancras International stations during the morning peak period on completion of the Thameslink programme. [299199]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is currently evaluating bids for the new fleet of trains that will operate on the Thameslink network. The new trains will be highly reliable and designed to provide an enhanced passenger environment, including air conditioning, state of the art passenger information, and will be fully accessible for mobility impaired passengers.

The actual number of seats on the trains will be determined when the winning bidder is confirmed, but a new 12 car train will offer at least an additional 70 seats over the usual eight car trains operating from Bedford to St. Pancras International. The new trains will have a significantly higher overall capacity compared to the existing rolling stock.

The overall additional seats offered during the peak period will be determined by the exact train service that will operate. This will be determined closer to the completion of the overall programme.

Wheelchairs

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he plans to review limitations on the size of motors in powered wheelchairs to enable children in hilly areas to use them; and if he will make a statement. [299728]

Mr. Khan: There is no statutory limit on the size of motors of powered wheelchairs or mobility scooters (referred to as invalid carriages in legislation). They are limited to specific maximum speeds and to maximum unladen weight limits when in use on the public highway.

The use of mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs is covered by the Use of Invalid Carriages on Highways Regulations 1988. These regulations divide powered mobility vehicles into two main categories. The Class 2 type can travel at speeds of up to 4 mph and is primarily intended for use on the pavement. The unladen weight should not exceed 113.4 kilograms. The Class 3 type can travel at speeds of up to 8 mph and can be used on both roads and pavements. Class 3 scooters must have the facility to be driven at no more than 4 mph when used on the footpath. The unladen weight should not exceed 150 kilograms. The regulations also subject Class 2 and Class 3 vehicles to requirements concerning their means of stopping. They further specify that in order to use a powered mobility vehicle a person must be "suffering from some physical defect or physical disability" and that a Class 3 vehicle must not be used by a person under 14 years.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many staff of *(a)* her Office and *(b)* the Government Olympic Executive have been authorised to work from home in the last 12 months. [297736]

Tessa Jowell: My Private Office is based in the Cabinet Office. The Cabinet Office has a home working policy in place as part of its commitment to flexible working.

The Government Olympic Executive (GOE) is part of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)—reporting to me through the permanent secretary. DCMS staff are actively encouraged to work alternative working patterns, including working from home. These are mainly arranged at local line management level and DCMS does not hold comprehensive data centrally about the number of staff involved. DCMS has a new human resources information system in place, and when this is fully operational, it will record this information.

Olympic Games 2012

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the legacy for the sport of *(a)* shooting at the Royal Artillery Barracks, *(b)* badminton at Wembley Arena and *(c)* rhythmic gymnastics at Wembley Arena of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [294234]

Tessa Jowell: Government are working closely with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), with the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and with the national governing bodies to maximise all possible legacy opportunities for the sports from the games. This will include consideration being given to the relocation of assets and equipment used during the games, including shooting ranges, regardless of the location of the events.

Using the inspiration of London 2012, Sport England has recently invested £750,000 in the development of grass-roots target shooting as part of the Whole Sports Plans 2009-13. The plan will harness the interest in the sport created by the 2012 games and aims to increase participation levels.

In December 2008, Sport England awarded £20.8 million, spread over four years, to Badminton England to help more people play the game at school, club and community level as well as at the elite end of the game.

The Gymnastics England Facilities Fund opened for applications in October 2009. £2.75 million is available for capital projects to develop new gymnastic facilities or to refurbish or improve existing facilities.

The London borough of Greenwich, which will host the London 2012 shooting venue, has previously announced a £10.2 million investment into a "Greenwich 2012" Legacy Fund which will be invested partly in new sports facilities at local schools, parks and playgrounds. Proposals are well advanced to provide a legacy in gymnastics, basket ball, martial arts and an equestrian centre.

Olympic Games 2012: Business

Paul Flynn: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what representations *(a)* she, *(b)* the current Olympic Executive and *(c)* the Olympic Delivery Authority has received from local representatives of devolved administrations and regions on promotion of local businesses via the London 2012 Olympics. [273827]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 11 May 2009]:* I receive frequent representations via parliamentary questions and correspondence from representatives of the nations and regions on business opportunities associated with the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. My officials in the Government Olympic Executive support me in this. Additionally, I receive representations through my 2012 visits to the English regions and the devolved Administrations.

The Government are committed to ensuring businesses across the UK benefit from the Olympics. The London 2012 Business Network was established to ensure that businesses from across the UK have access to contracts in London 2012's supply chains, and any support they need to win them.

Since its creation in 2006, the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has run an ongoing programme of visits across the nations and regions on the business benefits of London 2012. It runs a programme of regional visits in partnership with the nine English regions and the three devolved Administrations to raise awareness of current and future business opportunities generated by the ODA construction programme. London 2012 is planning more regional visits for 2010 to continue to engage businesses in the games.

The ODA has also held various business events and workshops, including events in London for Welsh businesses to be briefed by its procurement team and tier one contractors.

To source all other representations received by the ODA would incur a disproportionate cost, due to the large volume of engagement they have in this area. In all, London 2012 expects to directly procure £6 billion worth of contracts, generating tens of thousands of supply chain opportunities which are benefiting businesses across the UK.

Olympic Games 2012: Human Trafficking

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what representations she has received on the possibility of an increase in human trafficking in the sex industry in relation to the London 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [298184]

Tessa Jowell: Major sporting events can be a magnet for the global sex and trafficking industry, this is wholly unacceptable and taints these events. In the past 12 months, I have had seven representations on this issue and I am determined to help deter traffickers from London 2012 by developing a plan for action based on discussions with all relevant parties.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department's information assurance procedures have been subject to an independent audit. [299382]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office is part of the Ministry of Justice, whose internal auditors have specifically reviewed our information assurance procedures.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff in his Department were employed on the management of freedom of information requests submitted to his Department in each year since 2005; and how much his Department spent on the management of such requests in each such year. [299128]

Ann McKechin: Since 2005, the management of freedom of information requests submitted to the Scotland Office is undertaken by staff in conjunction with their other duties. As such, a precise breakdown of staff or costs is not available.

The Office has seen a year on year increase in the number of freedom of information requests since 2007, with 2009 already showing a 48 per cent. increase on requests submitted in 2008.

An assessment of the cost of freedom of information within Government can be found in Frontier Economics 2006 report 'Independent Review of the Freedom of Information Act'. A copy of this report is available in the House of Commons Library.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department on procurement under tender because the tender process had been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last 12 months. [299350]

Ann McKechin: No such costs have been incurred.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Crime

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what definition of cleared crimes is used by *(a)* the Police Service of Northern Ireland and *(b)* his Department for official figures. [298889]

Paul Goggins: My Department and PSNI follow the counting rules stipulated by the Home Office in defining cleared crimes. Clearances, or detections, can be either sanction or non-sanction. The following methods of clearance involve a formal sanction:

Charging or issuing a summons to an offender;

Issuing a caution to the offender;

Having the offence accepted for consideration in court;

In the case of an offender who is a juvenile, issuing an informal warning, restorative caution or prosecutorial diversion.

A non-sanction clearance can be claimed if:

The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) directs no prosecution; or

The case cannot proceed because the offender has died.

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many offences of *(a)* murder, *(b)* manslaughter, *(c)* grievous bodily harm and *(d)* rape committed in Northern Ireland in each year since 2005 (i) were classified as cleared, (ii) resulted in a conviction and (iii) are still being investigated; [298890]

(2) how many people in Northern Ireland were convicted of *(a)* murder, *(b)* manslaughter, *(c)* grievous bodily harm and *(d)* rape in each year since 2005. [298891]

Paul Goggins: Table 1 gives the number of murder, manslaughter, grievous bodily harm/wounding (including those with intent) and rape offences that were recorded and cleared for the years 2005 to 2008. Table 2 documents the number convicted of the offences requested for the years 2005 and 2006 (the latest year for which figures are available). Convictions for these offences also include attempts.

It is not possible to reconcile PSNI data on the number of offences recorded and cleared directly with conviction data, as the former are offence-based whereas conviction data are offender-based. In addition, PSNI data denote the offence as it has been initially recorded and this may differ from the offence for which a suspect (or suspects) is subsequently proceeded against.

With regard to the number still being investigated, the data requested are not stored in an easily retrievable format. As such an accurate response would require a resource intensive manual trawl which could be conducted only at disproportionate cost.

Table 1: Number of offences recorded and cleared—murder, manslaughter, grievous bodily harm/wounding and rape 2005-08

		2005	2006	2007	2008
Murder	Recorded	26	27	26	20
	Of those recorded the number since cleared[2]	17	22	14	15
Manslaughter	Recorded	3	3	3	4
	Of those recorded the number since cleared[2]	0	2	2	3
Grievous bodily harm/wounding[1, 3]	Recorded	1,120	1,230	1,189	1,647
	Of those recorded the number since cleared[2]	446	442	388	545
Rape[1]	Recorded	383	475	422	396
	Of those recorded the number since cleared[2]	152	82	69	77

[1] Includes attempts.

[2] Clearance figures are subject to revision as non-cleared offences may be under ongoing investigation and may still be cleared.

[3] Figures for grievous bodily harm/wounding include the offences 'grievous bodily harm with intent' and 'wounding with intent'.

Source:
PSNI

Table 2: Number convicted[1]—murder, manslaughter, grievous bodily harm/wounding and rape 2005 and 2006

Offence	*2005*	*2006*
Murder	14	11
Manslaughter	11	17
Grievous bodily harm/wounding[2]	152	180
Rape	8	11
Total	185	219

[1] Convictions for the above offences include attempts.

[2] Grievous bodily harm/wounding includes the offences 'grievous bodily harm with intent' and 'wounding with Intent'.

Note:
Conviction data are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Source:
NIO

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff in his Department were employed on the management of freedom of information requests submitted to his Department in each year since 2005; and how much his Department spent on the management of such requests in each such year. [299125]

Paul Goggins: The information requested in relation to the numbers of staff employed in the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) dealing with the management of freedom of information requests and the cost is listed in the following table.

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Number of staff dealing with FOI for more than 50 per cent. of their substantive role	1	3	4	5	5
Spend (£)	28,836	56,460	72,040	98,298	103,886

This response relates to the core NIO only.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1W, on departmental rail travel, how many *(a)* journeys were paid for and *(b)* people travelled in each year; whether any nugatory expenditure was incurred in each year; and if he will make a statement. [298177]

Mr. Woodward: The number of journeys paid for and number of people who travelled are shown in the following table.

	Single journey equivalents	*Number of staff who travelled*
2006-07	414	76
2007-08	239	55
2008-09	288	78

My Department receives refunds for unused rail ravel so there was no nugatory expense incurred.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of knife amnesties in Northern Ireland; [298996]

(2) how many knives were handed in during the three most recent knife amnesties in Northern Ireland; [298997]

(3) what work his Department has undertaken together with the Department for Education in Northern Ireland on education of young people in relation to knife crime. [298998]

Paul Goggins: Two knife amnesties were held in 2006 resulting in over 1,500 potentially lethal weapons being disposed of. Based on feedback from the agencies involved, and given the number of weapons disposed of, my assessment is that the amnesties have been very effective. In the period since I have focused on the development of an educational and preventative strategy including a knife awareness campaign, delivered through schools, on the dangers of carrying knives. In April along with the Department of Education, PSNI and Crimestoppers we delivered a series of drama workshops called 'Choices'. 54 schools, involving around 4,000 pupils took part and were able to use a knife crime information pack as part of the citizenship curriculum. A second programme is running in the week commencing 9 November aimed at year 12 pupils (15 to 16 years of age).

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Retirement

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Police Service of Northern Ireland officers of each grade have been medically retired in each of the last five years. [299418]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Police Service of Northern Ireland officers who have been medically retired have appealed against their percentage disablement in each of the last five years. [299419]

Paul Goggins: The number of Police Service of Northern Ireland officers who have been medically retired and have appealed their percentage disablement in the last five years are as follows:

	Number
2005-06	69
2006-07	47
2007-08	55
2008-09	61
2009 to date	41

These figures were provided by the Northern Ireland Policing Board as the Northern Ireland Office does not hold this information.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Police Service of Northern Ireland officers who have been medically retired and who have appealed against their percentage disablement have had their appeal heard in each of the last five years. [299420]

Paul Goggins: I will write to the hon. Member when the information is available.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Dignity at Work

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will place a copy of her Office's Dignity at Work strategy in the Library. [298452]

Michael Jabez Foster: I have placed a copy of the Government Equalities Office's Dignity and Respect at Work Policy in the Libraries of the House.

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will place a copy of the Dignity at Work policy of the Equality and Human Rights Commission in the Library. [298453]

Maria Eagle: The Commission has not yet finalised its Dignity at Work policy therefore I am unable to place a copy in the Library at this time.

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment has been made of the *(a)* effectiveness and *(b)* value for money of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [298448]

Maria Eagle: The financial position and performance of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is regularly monitored by the Government Equalities Office (GEO). There are monthly financial reports to the GEO Board and Ministers hold regular review meetings with the EHRC's accounting officer and chair of the Commission.

The GEO has pushed for savings and improved efficiency from the Commission. The Commission's budget has been reduced by 10 per cent. in light of these reviews and the Commission is looking further at efficiency in its value for money plan.

Equality Bill

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what role *(a)* the Audit Commission and *(b)* other public sector inspectorates will play in monitoring public authorities adherence to the duty to tackle socio-economic disadvantage proposed in the Equality Bill. [298449]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Audit Commission and other public service inspectorates will have an important role to play in monitoring performance under the new duty, for the public authorities they inspect. We are working with them to develop suitable mechanisms for this, using information that in most cases they already collect through existing processes.

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether the duty to tackle social-economic disadvantage proposed in the Equality Bill will apply to fire and rescue authorities and their targeting of fire resources. [298451]

Michael Jabez Foster: The duty will apply to local authorities, and therefore to fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) where these form part of a local authority. We are discussing with the Fire and Rescue Service and other appropriate stakeholders whether the duty should be extended to all FRAs.

Rape: Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what services for rape and sexual abuse counselling there are in Winchester; how much funding has been allocated to refuge and rape crisis centres in Winchester *(a)* in the last 12 months and *(b)* for 2009-10; and how many women have been turned away from such centres in Winchester because of the no recourse to public funds rule in each of the last five years. [299014]

Maria Eagle *[holding answer 10 November 2009]*: The Government do not collect information centrally on what services are available for victims of rape and sexual abuse. The provision of services to victims of rape and sexual abuse is a local issue; local decision makers are best placed to assess local needs. The majority of services are delivered through local providers who are supported and funded by local bodies, such as local councils and health organisations.

The Government have invested around £11 million over the last five years in specialist services for victims of sexual violence; this is in addition to funding provided locally. Most of this funding has come from the Victims' Fund.

Refuges: Domestic Violence

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many refuges for victims of domestic violence have been opened in the last five years for which figures are available. [289335]

Maria Eagle: The Government do not collect information centrally on the number of women's refuges in England or the provision of staff within refuges.

The provision of services to victims of domestic violence is an issue for local authorities; decision makers in these authorities are best placed to assess the needs of their area. The majority of services are delivered through local providers who are supported and funded by local bodies, such as councils and health organisations.

On 19 March 2009 the Government Equalities Office announced a cross-Government £1.6 million special fund for the sexual violence voluntary sector which will keep open much-needed services to victims of rape and sexual abuse. In addition, the Government Equalities Office is providing £220,000 to the two umbrella bodies, Rape Crisis England and Wales and The Survivors Trust to help member groups build capacity.

The Ministry of Justice is investing £15.6 million over two years to help divert vulnerable women, who are not serious or dangerous offenders, from custody. The Ministry of Justice is investing in existing third sector organisations to enable them to work with courts, police and probation and other agencies to provide support and services to vulnerable women in the criminal justice system.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Public Consultation: Legislation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Leader of the House what steps will be taken to consult the public on the Draft Legislative Programme 2009-10. [299394]

Barbara Keeley: The Draft Legislative Programme was published for consultation in June 2009 as part of "Building Britain's Future" and the consultation process was completed on 21 September. The public were invited to submit comments in writing and Ministers hosted events around the UK to seek people's views and answer questions. The Government have considered all of these comments and responses and a full summary and response to the Draft Legislative Programme consultation will be published alongside the Queen's Speech on 18 November.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliamentary Press Gallery: Catering

Lembit Öpik: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission (1) how much public subsidy has been paid in respect of meals provided in the Press Gallery cafeteria since 2004; [298908]

(2) what the notional value was of the facilities used by newspaper journalists in the House of Commons in the latest period for which figures are available; [298909]

(3) whether newspapers make payments for the use of facilities provided to them in the House of Commons; and if he will make a statement. [298928]

Nick Harvey: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The Press Gallery Cafeteria closed in May 2007 and the replacement, Moncrieff's Cafeteria which opened in October 2007, is open to all pass holders. The House does not provide a subsidy for individual eateries and bars although in common with all others, Moncrieff's benefits from the House funding arrangements. In 2008-09 the overall net cost incurred by the Catering and Retail Directorate in the Department of Facilities was some £6.1 million, in accordance with the budget approved by the Finance and Services Committee. This represents the difference between income and the cost of the services provided. Food and drink pricing is agreed by the Finance and Services Committee, with advice from the Administration Committee.

(b) There is no equivalent rental value for the facilities occupied by newspaper journalists as the Palace of Westminster is unique and held as freehold.

(c) No payment is made for the use of Press Gallery facilities.

Trade Unions: Political Levy

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1212W, on trade unions: political levy, whether the staff handbook has now been amended to inform House of Commons staff of their right to opt out of the political levies of trade unions. [299440]

Nick Harvey: An amendment to inform staff of their right to opt out of the political levies of trade unions is one of a number of amendments to the Staff Handbook that are currently going through a consultation process with staff and the unions. The revised Staff Handbook is scheduled to be released in December.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Scott: To ask the Solicitor-General what percentage of postal services provided to the Law Officers' Departments were provided by *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* other postal service providers (i) in 2007, (ii) in 2008, (iii) between 1 January and 1 July 2009 and (iv) since 1 July 2009. [298734]

The Solicitor-General: The following tables show the percentage of postal services provided to the Law Officers' Departments by Royal Mail and other service providers in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, (iii) between 1 January and 1 July 2009 and (iv) since 1 July 2009.

Percentage of postal services provided to the Law Officers' Departments by Royal Mail and other service providers

2007

—	*Crown Prosecution Service*	*Serious Fraud Office*	*Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office*[1]	*Treasury Solicitors' Department*[2,5]
Royal Mail	34.90	1.60	—	—
Other providers	65.10	98.40	—	—

2008

	Crown Prosecution Service	*Serious Fraud Office*	*Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office*	*Treasury Solicitors' Department*[2,5]
Royal Mail	34.00	3.48	44.00	—
Other providers	66.00	96.52	56.00	—

2009 (1 January to 1 July)

	Crown Prosecution Service	*Serious Fraud Office*	*Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office*	*Treasury Solicitors' Department*[2,5]
Royal Mail	36.60	3.44	25.00	—
Other providers	63.40	96.56	75.00	—

2009 (since 1 July)

	Crown Prosecution Service	*Serious Fraud Office*[4]	*Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office*[3]	*Treasury Solicitors' Department*[2,5]
Royal Mail	23.40	100	—	—
Other providers	76.60	—	—	—

[1] In 2007, all postal and courier services were provided to the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) through contracts which were initiated and maintained by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), formerly HM Customs and Excise. Includes Attorney General's Office (AGO) and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI).

[2] The Treasury Solicitor's Department has a number of providers of postal services, including the Royal Mail. It is not, however, possible to provide a breakdown of the sort requested within the disproportionate cost threshold.

[3] Since July 2009, RCPO's Manchester office has started to use DX for an increasing percentage of its postal services, currently estimated to increase the overall percentage of RCPO non-Royal Mail postal services by no more than 5 per cent.

[4] The Serious Fraud Office is not in receipt of invoices from other postal service providers for the period since 1 July 2009 and therefore financial records currently attribute 100 per cent. of expenditure for postal services to Royal Mail.

[5] The National Fraud Authority (NFA), formerly the National Fraud Strategic Authority (NFSA) was established in 2008 as an executive agency of the Attorney-General's Office (AGO). NFA has not held any contracts with postal service providers, including Royal Mail, for the years 2008 and 2009 (1 January 2009 to present). Prior to the NFA's change of accommodation from 26-28 Old Queen Street, SW1H 9HP to 200 Gray's Inn Road, WC1A 9BP in July 2009, it made use of Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate's postal arrangements (accounted for above as part of overall information for the Treasury Solicitor's Department). Since its relocation the NFA has made use of the arrangements put in place by the Serious Fraud Office.

Note:

Each of the Law Officers Departments has separate arrangements for the procurement of postal services.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Solicitor-General with which providers the Law Officers' Departments held contracts to provide postal services *(a)* in 2007, *(b)* in 2008, *(c)* between 1 January 2009 and 1 July 2009 and *(d)* after 1 July 2009. [298765]

The Solicitor-General: Details of the providers with which the Law Officers' Departments held contracts to provide postal services in each of the periods *(a)* in 2007, *(b)* in 2008, *(c)* between 1 January 2009 and 1 July 2009 and *(d)* after 1 July 2009, are provided in the following table.

Contracts with postal service providers

	Crown Prosecution Service	*Serious Fraud Office*	*Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office*[1]	*Treasury Solicitor's Department*[2]
2007	DX	DX	see note below	DHL
	Royal Mail	Royal Mail	—	DX

Contracts with postal service providers

	Crown Prosecution Service	*Serious Fraud Office*	*Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office*[1]	*Treasury Solicitor's Department*[2]
2008	DX Royal Mail	DX Royal Mail	DX Royal Mail	DHL DX
1 January to 1 July 2009	DX Royal Mail	DX Royal Mail	DX Royal Mail	DHL DX
Since 1 July 2009	DX Royal Mail	DX Royal Mail	DX Royal Mail	DHL DX

[1] In 2007, all postal and courier services were provided to the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) through contracts which were initiated and maintained by MM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), formerly HM Customs and Excise. New contracts were set up by RCPO in April 2008 with Document Exchange (DX) and the Royal Mail and continue to date.

[2] Includes Attorney General's Office (AGO) and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI). For the periods in question, TSol (including AGO and HMCPSI) has held formal contracts with DHL and DX Network Services, as well as with Pitney Bowes for the maintenance and re-charging of franking machines for franked mail which is delivered by Royal Mail. In addition to the contracted services listed, the Treasury Solicitor's Department (including AGO and HMCPSI) has, for the periods listed, utilised services provided by Royal Mail and the InterDelivery Service of the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Notes:

1. Each of the Law Officers Departments has separate arrangements for the procurement of postal services.
2. The National Fraud Authority (NFA), formerly the National Fraud Strategic Authority (NFSA), was established in 2008 as an executive agency of the Attorney General's Office (AGO). NFA has not held any contracts with postal service providers, including Royal Mail, for the years 2008 and 2009 (1 January 2009 to present). Prior to the NFA's change of accommodation from 26-28 Old Queen Street, SW1H 9HP to 200 Gray's Inn Road, WC1A 9BP in July 2009, it made use of Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate's postal arrangements (accounted for above as part of overall information for the Treasury Solicitor's Department). Since its re-location the NFA has made use of the arrangements put in place by the Serious Fraud Office.

Offences Against Children: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Solicitor-General how many cases of viewing online child abuse images have been referred to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in each of the last five years; what proportion of cases relating to the viewing of online child abuse images were not pursued by the CPS in the last five years; and for what reasons such cases were not pursued. [298911]

The Solicitor-General: The following table shows the number of offences of possessing an indecent photograph of a child, and of making an indecent photograph of a child, in which a prosecution commenced in each of the last five years. It is not possible to identify from CPS sources how many of these offences related to online images and how many to images in other media.

CPS records include no information on the outcome of proceedings at this level of detail, and it is therefore not possible to show either the number of proceedings discontinued or the reason for the decision to discontinue.

Offences charged and reaching a first hearing in magistrates courts

		2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Criminal Justice Act 1988 (160)	Possession of an indecent photograph of a child	2,742	3,185	2,768	3,079	4,241
Protection of Children Act 1978 (1(1)(a))	Making an indecent photograph of a child	11,434	12,573	10,607	10,832	13,454

WALES

Steel Industry

9. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on the future of the steel industry in Wales. [298048]

Mr. David: The steel industry is hugely important to the Welsh economy and both Governments are determined to provide as much support as possible to ensure steel industry has a future in Wales.

Economy

10. **Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues and Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on the state of the Welsh economy. [298049]

Mr. Hain: Regular ones.

Together, we have taken action to tackle the global economic crisis.

Youth Employment

11. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on assisting young people in Wales to find employment; and if he will make a statement. [298050]

Mr. David: My right hon. Friend and I meet regularly with Welsh Assembly Government colleagues to discuss issues relating to the Welsh economy, including ways of improving access to employment.

Thanks to our initiatives, long-term youth unemployment in Wales is down 17 per cent. from 1997 and down by 67 per cent. from the height of the recession in the 1990s.

Welsh Defence League

12. **Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary for the Home Department on the activities of the Welsh Defence League. [298051]

Mr. Hain: Both the Home Secretary and I are strongly opposed to the racist, fascist policies of the Welsh Defence League and I commend those Welsh people who united so effectively to drive this vile group out of our communities.

Cross-border Health Services

13. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the numbers of patients resident in Wales who used acute hospital services in Shropshire in 2008. [298052]

Mr. David: While there is no official definition of 'acute hospital services', according to Shropshire County PCT, '17,837' patients resident in Wales had a period of hospital care under one consultant in Shropshire in 2008-09. I understand that Telford and Wrekin PCT, Shropshire County PCT, and Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust carried out a review of the configuration of health services in Shropshire, and that proposals for the future are still being considered.

Ministerial Responsibilities

14. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales with reference to the list of Cabinet Ministers in the Cabinet Office publication "List of Ministerial Responsibilities", what assessment he has made of the contribution of his Department to the achievement of the Government's overall objectives. [298053]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office continues to make a significant contribution to the Government's objectives, in particular the process of devolution, and the Wales Office is facing its busiest time ever. For example, we have continued to increase the legislative competence of the Welsh Assembly Government, which has gained new powers in 45 areas since GOWA 2006. We have also worked in partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government in response to the downturn, co-hosting the All Wales Economic summits, making sure that Wales benefited from schemes such as the Strategic Investment Fund and Future Jobs Fund; and we have led on brokering the new cross-border health protocol which will improve health services for those on both sides of the border.

There is much more to tell and for the full picture I would recommend that you read our departmental annual report.

Broadcasting

Dr. Howells: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the future of broadcasting in Wales. [298045]

Mr. Hain: I have discussed this matter with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and he agrees with me that Wales needs a strong, vibrant, independent, high quality news service, besides BBC. The Digital Britain White Paper outlined the Government's proposals for a pilot scheme for news in the nations and regions, and Wales is one of the pilot areas. This shows the Government's commitment to securing a plurality of news provider and viewer choice, which is fundamental to the quality of democracy and accountability of Welsh Assembly Government to electorate in Wales.

Wales has vibrant media both on television and via the internet through local print newspapers, and I want this not only to continue but grow and believe Independently Funded News Consortia can help this. An ideal partnership would involve news delivery on ITV Wales and through other innovative electronic delivery outputs as provided on web by Welsh printed media. I understand that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport will shortly be announcing the process and timetable for implementing the IFNCs and I look forward to this news.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many first-class flights were taken at public expense by Ministers in his Department in 2008-09. [299623]

Mr. Hain: None.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2009. [299562]

Mr. Hain: The percentage of invoices paid within 10 days of receipt for my Department were 94.5 per cent. in September 2009 and 96 per cent. in October 2009.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales with which organisations his Department has had exclusivity agreements for information technology *(a)* hardware and *(b)* software in each of the last five years; how many such agreements have been breached in each year; and what the cost to his Department was of each breach. [299693]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office obtains its information technology services through the Ministry of Justice. Consequently, my Department does not enter into agreements or contracts with IT suppliers.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department was in the last 12 months. [299595]

Mr. Hain: No special advisers are provided with an allocated Government car and driver. As with all civil servants, special advisers may use an official car or taxi in properly defined circumstances. A detail of such use is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proportion of the statistical datasets collected by his Department are published. [299661]

Mr. Hain: None, my Department does not produce any statistical datasets.

Shoplifting

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on measures to reduce the incidence of shoplifting in Wales. [298185]

Mr. Hain: The Government take shoplifting very seriously. That is why we recently introduced the Home Office driven £5 million "Small Retailers Capital Fund" for both England and Wales.

It was unveiled on 6 August 2009 and identified four priority areas in Wales—Merthyr Tydfil, Swansea, Blaenau Gwent and Rhondda Cynon and Taf. The fund provides grants of up to £3,000 for small retailers to:

Support work to reduce the risk and occurrence of crime against smaller retailers in priority areas

Strengthen local retail partnerships to work collectively to reduce crime and disorder

Identify and create effective means to tackle crime against small retailers.

Partnership grants of up to £50,000 are also available under the following themes:

Theme 1

Work that reduces the risk and occurrence of crime such as antisocial behaviour, shoplifting, fraud, criminal damage, robbery, burglary, hate crime and violent crime through the installation of equipment within shop(s)/ retail outlet(s).

Theme 2

Work that adds value to existing crime/antisocial behaviour prevention and reduction schemes to improve local shopping districts.

Theme 3

External work that is visible, provides reassurance and builds confidence that shops and shopping areas are safe.

Theme 4

Equipment that helps small business work collectively and in partnership with the police and other statutory agencies such as local authorities and fire and rescue authorities.

Theme 5

Work that supports particularly vulnerable retailers including those in rural and minority communities where crime is a particular problem.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Avebury: Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had on the *(a)* protection and *(b)* maintenance of the (i) Avebury and (i) Stonehenge world heritage site. [297244]

Margaret Hodge: Over the last year, my hon. Friend the Member for Stevenage (Barbara Follett) has jointly chaired the Stonehenge Project Board which oversees plans to improve the environment and facilities at Stonehenge including closure of the A344.

The Government recently announced a £10 million contribution to enable English Heritage to build new, environmentally sustainable visitor facilities which will deliver a world class visitor experience at this iconic monument.

There are ongoing discussions between ministers, officials and English Heritage on the protection and maintenance of both Stonehenge and Avebury.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many first-class flights were taken by each Minister in his Department in 2008-09; and what the *(a)* origin, *(b)* destination and *(c)* cost was of each such flight. [298756]

Mr. Simon: Travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code. Information relating to flights taken by ministers is published in the annual list of Minister's overseas travel costing more than £500. The list for 2008-09 can be accessed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/226022/travel_2008_2009.pdf

Departmental Billing

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2009. [299560]

Mr. Simon: In October the Prime Minister announced that all central Government Departments will pay valid invoices within 10 (working) days.

The Department's performance for payment of invoices against this commitment was 91.41 per cent. in September 2009 and 94.94 per cent. in October 2009. The value of invoices paid within 10 days totalled £5.95 million and £2.37 million in September and October respectively.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department were employed on the management of freedom of information requests submitted to his Department in each year since 2005; and how much his Department spent on the management of such requests in each such year. [299138]

Mr. Simon: A dedicated team handling freedom of information requests was set up in April 2008. The staffing levels of the team have varied at different times, but have equated to roughly three full-time equivalent members of staff, with low and variable levels of input from colleagues across the wider Department dependent on the subjects.

As the exact numbers and grade structure of the central team has fluctuated, as have the levels of other input required at any given point, it is not possible to provide accurate costs for this period. It is also not possible to provide staffing numbers or costs prior to April 2008 as duties were spread across the entire Department.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department was in the last 12 months. [299584]

Mr. Simon: No special advisers are provided with an allocated Government car and driver. As with civil servants, special advisers may use an official car or taxi in properly defined circumstances. Details of such use is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All travel is in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

Departmental Political Activities

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of his Department's non-departmental bodies sent representatives to attend each of the party political conferences in 2009. [298717]

Mr. Simon: This information is not held by my Department.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department and its agency on procurement under tender because the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last 12 months. [299347]

Mr. Simon: The Department has cancelled one tender in the last 12 months, in respect of catering services. The nugatory costs involved were small, and in particular included a cost of £180 for setting up two electronic tender-boxes for the deposit of pre-qualification questionnaires and invitations to tender and an additional staff cost of £200 for preparation of documents, meetings and assessments. Our agency the Royal Parks has incurred no nugatory costs in this area.

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department travelled by (i) car, (ii) rail and (iii) air on Government business in each year since 1997. [298551]

Margaret Hodge: The Department does not hold or record any information on miles travelled by car for either ministers or officials centrally. This information could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost. The Department also does not hold any records with reference to mileage on rail and air travel prior to October 2007. However the following information collected since October 2007 can be provided:

October 2007 to March 2008: Ministers travelled 3,102 miles by rail and Officials travelled 74,196 miles by rail.

April 2008 to March 2009: Ministers travelled 7,997 miles by rail and Officials travelled 199,416 miles by rail.

October 2007 to March 2008: A total of 168,544 miles by air was travelled by both Ministers and Officials. We do not have separate figures for Ministers and Officials.

April 2008 to March 2009: A total of 743,851 miles by air was travelled by both Ministers and Officials. We do not have separate figures for Ministers and Officials.

Government Art Collection: Lost Property

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent attempts his Department has made to reclaim works of art lost from the Government art collection. [298221]

Margaret Hodge: The Government art collection is currently involved in two legal claims on works of art previously registered as lost from its holdings. These are subject to ongoing legal processes [illegible] negotiations, which would be prejudiced (and possibly aborted altogether) by the disclosure of any further details at this stage.

Government: Assets

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with local authorities on the Government's proposed sale of public assets. [298932]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have had no direct discussions with local authorities on this issue.

The £11 billion of UK local authority asset sales assumed, at Budget 2009, over the period 2011-12 to 2013-14 are a Treasury forecast based on historic performance by the sector and forecast recovery in prices and transactions following the downturn. Outturn and budget data collected from the local authority sector by Communities and Local Government and the devolved Administrations inform the forecasting process.

Internet: Counterfeit Manufacturing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to take steps to encourage digital distribution in the entertainment industry as a means of tackling internet piracy. [299533]

Mr. Simon: As part of our strategy to tackle Online Copyright Infringement, the Government have consistently encouraged the creative (entertainment) industries to develop new digital business models that offer consumers legitimate sources of digital content in a form and at a price that they find attractive.

Olympic Games 2012: Gun Sports

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has for the legacy for pistol shooting of the London 2012 Olympic games. [297373]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 2 November 2009]*: I have been asked to reply.

Possessing a pistol is illegal in the UK under the Firearms Act 1968, therefore, no legacy specifically for pistol shooting is being planned. However, the 2012 games will provide the opportunity to showcase shooting as a sport more widely, in an iconic London location and provide a legacy for other shooting disciplines.

After the London games, there is the potential to relocate temporary ranges and assets from the shooting venue at Woolwich. The London Organising Committee of the Olympic games and Paralympic games, the Olympic Delivery Authority and Government are working with British Shooting to deliver the best possible legacy for the sport.

Through using the inspiration of London 2012 Sport England has recently invested £750,000 in the development of grassroots target shooting as part of the Whole Sports Plans 2009-13. The plan will harness the interest in the sport created by the 2012 games and aims to increase participation levels.

Public Buildings: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the *(a)* Tate, *(b)* British Museum, *(c)* British Library and *(d)* British Film Institute will be expected to release from their reserves to fund their building extension plans. [298933]

Margaret Hodge: The amount released from these bodies' reserves to pay for their extensions is dependent upon a range of factors including the final cost of the project and the amount of funding that can be raised in other ways; for instance, through donations. The Department approves the plans that these bodies produce and monitors the funding sources used throughout the life of the project to ensure that they remain affordable and provide good value for money.

Television: Advertising

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to publish the outcome of his Department's consultation on product placement on television programmes. [299487]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department published a consultation document about television product placement on Monday 9 November, and this is available on my Department's website at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/consultations/6421.aspx

I welcome responses to this consultation, which should be sent to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport by January 8 2010. I will announce the outcome of the consultation after we have given full consideration to all the responses.

Television: Licensing

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many convictions there have been of Bassetlaw residents for non-payment of a television licence in the last five years. [299302]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

Information showing the number of persons found guilty at all courts for television licence evasion in the Nottinghamshire police force area from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table. Information is not available at constituency level nor can the Ministry of Justice separately provide data for Bassetlaw residents; therefore police force area level data have been provided in lieu.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for television licence evasion, Nottinghamshire police force area, 2003-07[1, 2]

	Number
2003	2,416
2004	2,146
2005	2,025
2006	3,621
2007	4,266

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

VisitBritain: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many page hits the *(a)* Visit Britain and *(b)* Enjoy England website has recorded in each year since its creation. [299214]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 10 November 2009]:* VisitBritain has advised that they recorded the following number of page hits to their website for the following years as outlined in the following table.

	Number of page hits (million)
2009	3,662.4
2008	3,073.8
2007	2,223.6
2006	2,136.4
2005	1308
2004	1,220.8
2003	697.6

VisitBritain do not hold data on page hits prior to 2003.

VisitEngland only hold data on page hits to the EnjoyEngland/VisitEngland website from July 2008 to October 2009. Total page hits for this period are as follows:

	Number of page hits
July to December 2008	1,289,347,246
January to October 2009	2,313,955,042

World Heritage Sites

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what visits in an official capacity *(a)* he and *(b)* his predecessor made to each UK world heritage site in the last 12 months. [297249]

Margaret Hodge: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will be visiting UK Heritage Sites as part of a series of regional visits. His predecessor visited the Tower of London World Heritage Site in November last year.

May I remind the hon. Member that the House of Commons itself is part of the Palace of Westminster, St Margaret's Church and Westminster Abbey World Heritage Site, one of the United Kingdom's 28 World Heritage Sites.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Air Travel

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many domestic flights within Great Britain officials from his Department made in 2008-09; and at what cost. [298252]

Dan Norris *[holding answer 10 November 2009]*: From information held centrally, core-DEFRA officials made 368 domestic flights within Great Britain in 2008-09 at a cost of £59,556.21. Travel by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Civil Service Management Code.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many first-class flights were taken by each Minister in his Department in 2008-09; and what the *(a)* origin, *(b)* destination and *(c)* cost was of each such flight. [298753]

Dan Norris: Travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code. The Cabinet Office produces an annual list of overseas travel over £500 undertaken by Ministers. The 2008-09 list was published on 16 July and can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/226022/travel_2008_2009.pdf

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in his Department were employed on the management of freedom of information requests submitted to his Department in each year since 2005; and how much his Department spent on the management of such requests in each such year. [299141]

Dan Norris: The Department has a small team providing advice, guidance and training to members of staff who respond to requests for information. Some members of the team also spend part of their time advising on other legislation, such as the Data Protection Act (DPA) and the environmental information regulations (EIRs). In particular, the environmental information unit within the team provides guidance to members of the public and other public authorities. The team is flexible in how it handles its day-to-day work load across all its information rights duties, and the percentages of time spent on the various functions can vary considerably over time. The approximate staffing levels in full-time equivalents are therefore as follows:

	Full-time equivalent
2005-06	12
2006-07	11
2007-08	9
2008-09	6

Because of this flexibility, it is not possible to give a figure that relates only to the management of freedom of information requests. The approximate figures, as follows, cover staff working on FOI, DPA and EIR requests as well as providing guidance to outside bodies and members of the public on the EIRs. These figures include salary, superannuation and ERNIC payments.

	£
2005-06	470,880
2006-07	449,000
2007-08	409,000
2008-09	306,000

An assessment of the cost of freedom of information within Government can be found in the Frontier Economics 2006 report "Independent Review of the Freedom of Information Act". A copy of this report is available in the House of Commons Library.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with which organisations his Department has had exclusivity agreements relating to information technology *(a)* hardware and *(b)* software in each of the last five years. [298328]

Dan Norris: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has not entered into any exclusivity agreements for either hardware or software in the past five years.

Departmental Political Activities

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 804W, on party conferences, how much each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies spent sending representatives to attend each of the party political conferences. [298929]

Dan Norris: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 3 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 804W. The actual cost of such attendance is a matter for the non-departmental public bodies concerned and officials have not been able to access the information requested, accurately and consistently for all four bodies, in the time available. I will ask the relevant bodies to write to you with this information.

Departmental Publicity

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what national environment campaigns have been undertaken by his Department since 1997; and what the *(a)* resource, *(b)* capital expenditure and *(c)* staffing costs in 2009 prices were of each such campaign. [288761]

Dan Norris: DEFRA was created in June 2001. Since then DEFRA has undertaken a wide range of various environmentally focussed campaigns through the core Department. This includes Every Action Counts, Climate Change Initiative, Act on CO_2, Food Imports, and Muck in 4Life. The total costs for all marketing and communication activity since 2004-05 are as follows:

	£
2004-05	4,174,571
2005-06	3,454,786
2006-07	2,084,525
2007-08	6,890,148
2008-09	[1]8,793,329

[1] This includes the initial Act on CO_2 mitigation campaign, now led by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC).

Figures before financial year 2004-05 are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Figures for resource costs, capital expenditure costs and staffing costs in 2009 prices could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 28 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 350W, on departmental rail travel, how many *(a)* journeys were paid for and *(b)* people travelled in each year; whether any nugatory expenditure was incurred in each year; and if he will make a statement. [298175]

Dan Norris: From information held centrally, on departmental rail travel, the information is:

	Journeys paid for	*Refund fees (£)*
July 2006 to March 2007	12,992	6,351
April 2007 to March 2008	15,400	11,383
April 2008 to March 2009	13,109	7,199
April 2009 to September 2009	5,260	2,857

Information on the numbers of people who travelled in each year could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Marine Management Organisation

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many Marine and Fisheries Agency staff have asked for a transfer to another department in preference to accepting a position at the new Marine Management Organisation; [298989]

(2) how many Marine and Fisheries Agency staff have accepted *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary posts in the new Marine Management Organisation. [298991]

Huw Irranca-Davies: All staff in the Marine and Fisheries Agency at the time of vesting of the new Marine Management Organisation will automatically transfer to the new organisation under Cabinet Office protocols on transfers in the public sector. The Marine Bill provides that staff in the Marine and Fisheries Agency at the time of vesting of the Marine Management Organisation who choose not to transfer to it are deemed to have resigned.

We are not aware of any staff in the Marine and Fisheries Agency who have requested a transfer to another Department because their post is being transferred to the Marine Management Organisation.

The Marine and Fisheries Agency headquarters is relocating to Newcastle and will become the new Marine Management Organisation headquarters. Eleven staff are relocating. Sixty-seven staff have chosen not to relocate and have access to posts in core DEFRA or can apply for advertised vacancies in other Departments.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* journalists, *(b)* television crews, *(c)* other civilians, *(d)* officials from his Department and *(e)* other non-military personnel have visited British troops in Helmand province in each of the last five years; and what (i) assistance and (ii) facilities his Department has provided for them. [299486]

Bill Rammell: Between November 2006 and November 2009 the MOD has facilitated 354 media visits to Afghanistan, including to Helmand province. The composition of each group varies and records are not held centrally. I will write shortly to the hon. Member on non media visits.

The MOD provides transport, accommodation, dining and security support to these visits, using facilities already available in theatre.

Information on media visits to Afghanistan prior to November 2006 is not available centrally.

Afghanistan: Armed Forces

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which units down to company level have been deployed to Afghanistan *(a)* once, *(b)* twice, *(c)* three and *(d)* four or more times since October 2001. [297938]

Bill Rammell: The following table shows which units at Company level have deployed once, twice, three and four times to Afghanistan since October 2001.

Regular unit name	*Number of battalion deployments*	*Number of 3 Coy deployments*	*Number of 2 Coy deployments*	*Number of 1 Coy deployments*
40 Commando Royal Marines	1	—	—	—
42 Commando Royal Marines	2	—	—	—
45 Commando Royal Marines	3	—	—	—
1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards	3	—	—	—
1st Battalion, The Coldstream Guards	1	—	—	—
1st Battalion, The Welsh Guards	1	—	—	—
1st Battalion, The Royal Scots Borderers, The Royal Regiment of Scotland	—	—	—	1
The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	1	—	—	—
The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	1	—	—	—
The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	1	—	—	—
The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment	—	—	—	3
2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	1	—	—	2
1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment	1	1	—	—
2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment	1	—	—	—
2nd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment (formerly Green Howards)	3	—	—	—
2nd Battalion, The Mercian Regiment (Worcesters and Foresters)	—	3	—	—
1st Battalion, The Royal Welsh (Royal Welch Fusiliers)	2	—	—	2
2nd Battalion, The Royal Welsh	—	—	—	2
1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment	1	—	—	—
2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment	1	—	—	—
3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment	2	—	—	—
1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles	1	—	—	—
2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles	2	—	—	1
1st Battalion, The Rifles, (formerly known as The Royal Gloucestershire Berkshire and Wiltshire Light Infantry)	2	—	—	—
2nd Battalion, The Rifles	1	—	—	—
3rd Battalion, The Rifles	1	—	—	—
4th Battalion, The Rifles	—	—	1	1

The apparent unevenness in the distribution of deployments between the various units shown reflect the narrow parameters of the question. Over the period that the answer covers, the Army have been committed on operations in not only Afghanistan and Iraq, but also have deployed in the Balkans, Northern Ireland, Cyprus and the Falkland Islands. When determining which units to allocate to operations, a number of considerations apply, not least the particular capability they offer. For example, those units which have deployed to Afghanistan will predominantly be those that operate in a light role.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK soldiers have *(a)* died and *(b)* suffered injury that has required aeromedivac to the UK, due to improvised explosive devices detonated in the course of logistical moves in Helmand Province since 2005. [298421]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 10 November 2009]:* The MOD is committed to openly publishing casualty statistics on the number of service personnel killed and wounded on operations. Information on casualties sustained since January 2006 in Afghanistan and information on how each individual was killed is included in their eulogies available on our website at the following link.

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets

I will place a copy of the most up to date statistics in the Library of the House. These statistics are updated fortnightly online. We do not disclose information on how casualties are injured as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Information on patients from Afghanistan who require treatment at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine at Selly Oak Hospital and the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court is also publicly available on the website of the Defence Analytical Services and Advice.

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&pubType=0&thiscontent=1350&PublishTime=09:30:00&date=2009-10-30&disText=30%20September%202009&from=listing&topDate=2009-10-30&skipCheck=1

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many limbs have been lost by UK troops in Helmand Province since 2005. [298422]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) on 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 644W. Determining amputations related to action specifically in Helmand would be complex and would at the very least necessitate interrogation of individual records. Even this would not be definitive as wounded could arrive at any one of many field hospitals, potentially including those outside Helmand. At the same time, casualties evacuated from Helmand field hospitals could have been wounded elsewhere. Consequently, obtaining verified data would be problematic and any data provided could not be relied upon.

Afghanistan: Pakistan

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what effect recent steps taken by Pakistan against al-Qaeda have had on the number of terrorist attacks in Afghanistan; and whether he has made a recent assessment of the extent to which co-operation with the Pakistani armed forces could enable UK forces to withdraw from Afghanistan. [296981]

Bill Rammell: Current Pakistani military operations in South Waziristan are directed against Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), however, we assess that they have placed pressure on other militant groups in South Waziristan.

A number of factors contribute to fluctuations in attack levels in Afghanistan, making it difficult to discern the precise effect that activity in Pakistan is having.

While we work closely with the Pakistani military in building its capacity to conduct counterinsurgency operations within its own borders, we have always been clear that ISAF's mission in Afghanistan will only be complete once the Afghan National Security Forces themselves can take on the conduct of security operations.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the diet provided to troops on active service in Afghanistan. [298958]

Bill Rammell: The Institute of Naval Medicine is currently assessing 'end of deployment' data on the diet experienced by personnel who were deployed to forward operating bases and patrol bases in Afghanistan.

This data collection is one element of the surgeon general's armed forces feeding project to provide an evidence base in support of UK armed forces feeding in training, in unit and during overseas operations.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the use of Snatch Land Rovers in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [299044]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The use by our armed forces in Afghanistan of all equipment types is kept under constant review to ensure that they continue to meet operational requirements. This includes the use of Snatch vehicles. Operational commanders have repeatedly stressed the importance of having a range of vehicles from which they can select the most appropriate for specific tasks. This includes a lighter, smaller and more agile patrol vehicle, such as the Snatch 2A and Snatch Vixen Land Rover. But to ensure that our personnel have the best possible protection, a strengthened variant of the vehicle, Snatch Vixen-Plus, is being procured for delivery to Afghanistan next year. This will be followed shortly thereafter by the new lighter protected patrol vehicle.

Armed Forces: Cadets

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the letter from the Prime Minister to the then Secretary of State of 11 March 2008, reference MSU/10/7/2 serial number 1421/2007, on expansion of the cadet force. [296293]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 28 October 2009]:* I am withholding the information requested as its release may prejudice the development of Government policy. However, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 4 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 987-988W.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what deployments have been made by each battalion of the infantry since 1997; and what the intervals were between each tour. [297900]

Bill Rammell: Historical data to support the calculation of the average tour interval for each battalion or regiment of the Infantry since 1997 is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the last operational Tour Interval for each Infantry unit as at 1 November 2009, based on the unit's last two operational tours to Iraq, Afghanistan, the Balkans, Northern Ireland or Cyprus.

	Latest Information			*Previous Information*		
Unit deployed/Infantry	*End date*	*Last operational deployment (as a unit)*	*Start date*	*Previous operational deployment (as a unit)*	*End date*	*Last unit tour interval (months)*
1st Battalion Grenadier Guards	—	Afghanistan	October 2009	Afghanistan	October 2007	24
1st Battalion Coldstream Guards	—	Afghanistan	October 2009	Afghanistan	October 2007	24
1st Battalion Scots Guards	May 2007	Iraq	December 2007	Iraq	April 2005	31
1st Battalion Irish Guards	November 2007	Iraq	June 2007	Northern Ireland	March 2006	15
1st Battalion Welsh Guards	October 2009	Afghanistan	April 2009	Balkans	April 2007	24
1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland[1]	May 2008	Iraq	December 2007	Iraq	May 2006	17
2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	September 2008	Afghanistan	April 2008	Iraq	December 2005	28
3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	October 2009	Afghanistan	April 2009	Iraq	January 2005	51
4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	November 2008	Iraq	June 2008	Iraq	May 2006	25

		Latest Information		*Previous Information*		
Unit deployed/Infantry	*End date*	*Last operational deployment (as a unit)*	*Start date*	*Previous operational deployment (as a unit)*	*End date*	*Last unit tour interval (months)*
5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	September 2008	Afghanistan	April 2008	Balkans	October 2005	29
1st Battalion The Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment	May 2009	Iraq	December 2008	Iraq	December 2006	24
2nd Battalion The Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment	June 2005	Iraq	January 2005	Northern Ireland	December 2003	12
1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	November 2008	Iraq	June 2008	Iraq	May 2006	25
2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	October 2009	Afghanistan	April 2009	Northern Ireland	November 2003	64
1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment	October 2007	Afghanistan	May 2007	Iraq	October 2005	18
2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment	November 2008	Iraq	June 2008	Iraq	October 2006	20
1st Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment[2]	May 2008	Iraq	December 2007	n/a	—	—
2nd Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment[2]	—	Cyprus (Theatre Reserve Battalion)	July 2009	Iraq	April 2008	27
1st Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment	May 2009	Iraq	December 2008	Iraq	May 2007	18
2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment	—	Afghanistan	October 2009	Afghanistan	April 2008	18
3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment	May 2005	Iraq	December 2004	—	—	40
1st Battalion The Royal Welsh	—	Afghanistan	October 2009	Cyprus (TRB)	April 2007	18
2nd Battalion The Royal Welsh	—	Afghanistan	October 2009	Iraq	November 2007	23
1st Battalion The Mercian Regiment	May 2007	Iraq	December 2007	Iraq	October 2004	37
2nd Battalion The Mercian Regiment	October 2009	Afghanistan	April 2009	Afghanistan	November 2007	16
3rd Battalion The Mercian Regiment	April 2007	Iraq	November 2006	Iraq	October 2005	12
1st Battalion The Rifles[3]	March 2009	Afghanistan	October 2008	Iraq	November 2006	23
2nd Battalion The Rifles	October 2009	Afghanistan	April 2009	Iraq	May 2007	23
3rd Battalion The Rifles	—	Afghanistan	October 2009	Iraq	February 2007	19
4th Battalion The Rifles	November 2007	Iraq	June 2007	Balkans	October 2001	67
5th Battalion The Rifles	May 2009	Iraq	December 2008	Iraq	December 2006	24
1st Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment	September 2008	Afghanistan	April 2008	Iraq	December 2005	28
2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment	September 2008	Afghanistan	April 2008	Iraq	April 2006	24
3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment	September 2008	Afghanistan	April 2008	Afghanistan	October 2006	18
1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Regiment	March 2008	Afghanistan	October 2007	Balkans	March 2006	18
2nd Battalion The Royal Gurkha Regiment	March 2009	Afghanistan	October 2008	Afghanistan	October 2005	37

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[1] 1 RS and 1 KOSB amalgamated to form 1 SCOTS in August 2006. 1 SCOTS deployed for the first time as a formed unit to Iraq in December 2007.

[2] 1 KORBR, 1 KINGS and QLR amalgamated in July 2006 to form 1 LANCS and 2 LANCS. Due to the nature of this amalgamation it is not representative to carry forward the unit deployments of 1 KORBR, 1 KINGS and QLR to 1 LANCS and 2 LANCS.

[3] 1 RGBW and 1 DDLI amalgamated in March 2007 to form 1 RIFLES. 1 RIFLES has deployed for the first time as a formed unit in October 2008 on Herrick 9. [illegible]

The deployments listed are by units, defined as a regiment deploying with a regimental headquarters and more than two manoeuvre sub-units for four months or more.

The average tour interval is 26 months. The Army's harmony guidelines recommend that Army units achieve 24 months between each six-month operational tour. Whilst there are necessary exceptions for certain trades and units, the situation continues to improve and we are generally succeeding in this aim.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of each service is currently deployable for operations overseas. [297935]

Bill Rammell: This information is not held centrally.

Atomic Weapons Establishment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when an improvement plan to reduce risks at Atomic Weapons Establishment sites will be prepared. [298199]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Effective risk management underpins all activities at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), including nuclear operations, technical programmes and construction work. This is undertaken in close consultation with the Ministry of Defence, regulators and other stakeholders.

A formal improvement plan does not exist, but continuous improvement is a fundamental part of safety management, and is embedded in all work relating to safety.

Safety cases have been developed for every nuclear process and activity at AWE sites. These are based on the principle that risks should be as low as reasonably practicable. All AWE risks are managed continuously and proactively with stakeholders, in accordance with AWE's licence under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965.

Atomic Weapons Establishment: Radioactive Waste

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes in the volume of *(a)* intermediate and *(b)* low level radioactive waste held at the Atomic Weapons Establishment are expected to take place over the next three years. [illegible]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The 2007 UK Radioactive Waste Inventory lists the volume of intermediate and low level radioactive waste that is expected, as of 1 April 2007, to arise in future years at the Atomic Weapons Establishment. This document is available from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority website:

http://www.nda.gov.uk/ukinventory/

It includes forecast quantities for the period 2010 to 2014. It states that the volume of intermediate level waste is forecast to be 1,040 cubic metres and the volume of low level waste is forecast to be 6,200 cubic metres.

The forecast for the three years from 2009 is not held separately and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

AWE Aldermaston

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the timetable is for submission of all his Department's proposed planning applications at *(a)* AWE Aldermaston and *(b)* AWE Burghfield. [illegible]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The following table represents the latest timetable for the submission of planning applications for AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield.

Project description	*Site*	*Timing of planning application*
Improved street lighting	Aldermaston	November 2009
Replacement enriched uranium handling facility	Aldermaston	November 2009
Hydrodynamics facility main and support building	Aldermaston	April 2010
Small scale formulations	Aldermaston	Beyond 2010, but not yet determined
Chemical processing	Burghfield	Beyond 2010, but not yet determined
Emergency response capability facility training extension	Burghfield	Beyond 2010, but not yet determined
Combined non metallurgy and material science	Burghfield	Beyond 2010, but not yet determined
High performance computer	Aldermaston	Beyond 2010, but not yet determined

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Christmas functions arranged by his Department and its agencies *(a)* the then Secretary of State, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* officials of its agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2008; what the cost to the public purse was; and if he will make a statement. [295457]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This response covers the Department and its agencies, but excludes trading funds which are outside the MOD's departmental boundary for financial reporting purposes.

Departmental policy is that Christmas functions are not an appropriate use of the Defence budget and therefore any functions should be fully funded from non-public funds such as staff subscriptions. No Christmas functions were arranged at public expense in 2008, but public funding of £838 was incurred in transporting MOD and service personnel to a Defence Equipment and Support Christmas Carol Concert in Bath.

Information about the attendance at Christmas functions by officials of the Department and its agencies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on Christmas (i) cards, (ii) parties and (iii) decorations in the last 12 months. [299272]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This response covers the Department and its agencies, but excludes trading funds which are outside the MOD's departmental boundary for financial reporting purposes.

MOD expenditure on Christmas cards over the last 12 months has been £305.

This figure includes printing, purchase and postage, but excludes a small amount spent by defence attaches, for permitted representational purposes which is not identifiable and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

There was no public money spent on Christmas parties and decorations.

Defence: Research

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated size of the defence research budget is in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11, *(c)* 2011-12 and *(d)* 2012-13. [292151]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer [illegible]2 October 2009]*: The majority of research expenditure is undertaken under the science, innovation and technology budget which in 2009-10 is £471 million. The current planning assumption is that approximately £439 million will be available in 2010-11. Departmental expenditure limits have not yet been set for the years beyond 2010-11.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many first-class flights were taken by each Minister in his Department in 2008-09; and what the *(a)* origin, *(b)* destination and *(c)* cost was of each such flight. [298755]

Bill Rammell: A full list of overseas travel by Ministers from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 is published by the Cabinet Office and can be found at the following link.

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/226022/travel_2008_2009.pdf

During this period, the following first-class flights were taken by Ministers in the MOD.

Minister	*Origin*	*Destination*	*Cost (£)*
Right hon. Bob Ainsworth MP	Bahrain	London	[1]3,555.70
Right hon. Bob Ainsworth MP	Bahrain	London	2,641.10
Right hon. Baroness Taylor	London	Kuala Lumpur	[2]4,527.00

[1] Including outward business class fare.
[2] Return fare.

The Secretary of State has asked that Ministers in my Department do not fly first-class unless there is no alternative option.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2009. [299561]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Performance figures for September and October 2009, against the Government's agreed 10 day payment target, are provided in the following table:

	Percentage of invoices paid within 10 days of receipt
September 2009	97.7
October 2009	98.5

The figures provided represent all invoices processed by the MOD financial management shared service centre and the four MOD trading funds; the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, Met Office, the Defence Support Group and the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which requests for information received by his Department under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in 2008 were *(a)* classified as not resolvable and *(b)* refused in full; [286135]

(2) in respect of which requests for information received by his Department in 2008 under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 it has received permission to extend the deadline for a response by more than 40 days; and what the reason for the request for an extension was in each case. [286159]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In 2008 the Ministry of Defence received some 2,631 requests for information centrally, under the Freedom of Information Act.

As of 30 January 2009, 258 cases were closed in which the information requested was withheld in full. A further 315 cases were closed and classed as not resolvable.

As at the same date, 49 cases required more than 40 days on top of the statutory 20 working day period and have now been closed. As of 30 January 2009, a further 69 cases remained open in which the statutory 20 working day period and a further 40 working days had passed.

The exact text of each of the 791 requests in the categories listed above, and the detailed reasons for each extension, could be provided at only disproportionate cost. However, I will write to the hon. Member to provide a short summary of each request for information received in 2008 that was classified as 'not resolvable' or 'withheld in full', and list any exemptions that applied. I will also set out simplified reasons for those that have required more than 40 working days on top of the statutory 20-working day period.

Substantive answer from Mr. Kevan Jones to Dan Rogerson:

I promised to write to you to provide more information in response to the written answer I gave you on 20 July, (Official Report, column 882W). I apologise for the time it has taken to reply to you.

Firstly, I must make a correction to the information provided in the answer to the Parliamentary Questions. My reply included the following statement:

"As of 30 January 2009, 258 cases were closed in which the information requested was withheld in full. A further 315 cases were closed and classed as not resolvable. As at the same date, 49 cases required more than 40 days on top of the statutory 20 working day period and have now been closed. As of 30 January 2009, a further 69 cases remained open in which the statutory 20 working day period and a further 40 working days had passed.

The exact text of each of the 791 requests in the categories listed above, and the detailed reasons for each extension, could only be provided at disproportionate cost."

The total of 791 requests given in the answer is incorrect. The total number of cases in the categories listed is 691. This was a typographical error, for which I apologise.

In my response to the question, I promised to provide you with a short summary of each request for information received in 2008 that was classified as not resolvable or withheld in full, and list any exemptions that applied. I will place in the Library of the House a spreadsheet showing a brief summary of the 573 requests, but it has proved impossible to list the exemptions that applied or provide a more detailed summary for all these cases as this could only be provided at disproportionate cost. This is because each record has to be individually retrieved from our management system and the information extracted. However, it has proved possible to provide the full information for 202 cases within the cost limit and this information is given within the spreadsheet.

I also agreed to set out simplified reasons for those that have required more than 40 working days on top of the statutory 20 working day period. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to identify reasons for each individual case. There are many reasons why a response might be delayed. These include, for example, difficulties identifying the appropriate part of the Department to respond, difficulties identifying the relevant information, complex discussions about whether information can be released, resource constraints and consultation of third parties including other Government Departments, commercial partners and foreign governments.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department were employed on the management of freedom of information requests submitted to his Department in each year since 2005; and how much his Department spent on the management of such requests in each such year. [299139]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following table shows the number of centrally staffed posts dedicated to the management of requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

	Number of staffed posts	Cost (£000)
2005	12.5	504
2006	13.5	564
2007	13.5	578
2008	12.5	564
2009	12.5	570

In addition, staff in some 50 local FOI focal points spend varying amounts of their time on activities related to the management of FOI requests as part of wider responsibilities. Information on the amount of this effort is not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

FOI related expenditure is also incurred on a range of other non-staff costs such as IT, publicity and training, but information on this expenditure could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department was in the last 12 months. [299585]

Bill Rammell: No special advisers are provided with an allocated Government car and driver. As with all civil servants, special advisers may use an official car or taxi in properly defined circumstances. Details of such use is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Iraq and Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many medals have been received by members of the Gibraltar regiment in respect of service in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan since 2001. [296911]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding 2 November 2009]:* Since 2001 the members of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment have received 55 Iraq Medals, one Iraq Medal with clasp and one United States Bronze Star in respect of service in Iraq. For service in Afghanistan one Military Cross, 14 Operational Service Medals with Afghanistan clasp and two United States Commendation Medals have been awarded.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what advice he received from *(a)* the Chief of General Staff, *(b)* operational commanders and *(c)* other senior Army personnel on the decision to sell the Army's stock of Gazelle helicopters. [299043]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The advice received from the Defence boards which includes the chiefs of staff, was to dispose of those Gazelle helicopters which no longer have a role in operations.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what offers of helicopters he has received from the private sector in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [299120]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Ministry of Defence occasionally receives offers from industry to purchase or lease helicopters in support of operations. I am withholding the information as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

Delivering helicopter capability is complex and beyond the immediate procurement of new airframes, additional time and cost is required to modify helicopters to meet specific operational and environmental threats and likely mission requirements, to certify the aircraft, to deliver support arrangements and to train air and ground crew. In order to deliver increased operational helicopter capability quickly, it has often proven more effective to invest in maximising the return from our existing fleets.

Where possible though we have sought to make use of commercial capacity to deliver freight. We have a contract for routine freight movement in Afghanistan, which has allowed our own departmental helicopters to focus on supporting military operations.

Nuclear Weapons: Decommissioning

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1469W, on what dates since October 2008 the specialist technical exchanges referred to in the answer have taken place; which of these involved discussion or demonstration of best practice on warhead disassembly; and whether any transfer of fissile material took place during such exchanges. [298506]

Bill Rammell: I am withholding further detail of individual technical exchanges conducted with the US through the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

Puma Helicopters

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made of the probability of Puma helicopter aircrew surviving crashes of differing severity; and if he will make a statement. [298384]

Bill Rammell: We routinely assess the safety of our aircraft to ensure that the equipment remains safe to operate and that the risks to personnel are reduced to as low as reasonably practicable, as is required of us under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. As a result we have introduced a number of modifications to the Puma aircraft to enhance its safety through-life, and are planning further enhancements as part of life extension programme for the aircraft which we contacted with Eurocopter on 18 September 2009.

Reservists

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many reservists are deployed on operations overseas. [297941]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 238W.

Territorial Army

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Territorial Army personnel of each rank there were in each year since 1997. [297940]

Bill Rammell: The available data are given in the following table.

Territorial Army strength by paid rank: 1997 to 2009

Date	*All TA personnel*	*All TA officers*	*Brigadier*	*Colonel*	*Lt Colonel*	*Major*	*Captain*	*Lieutenant*	*Second Lieutenant*
April 1997	57,620	6,560	[1]—	70	270	1,990	2,710	960	560
April 1998	57,600	6,780	[1]—	70	300	2,090	2,780	930	600
April 1999	52,210	6,590	[1]—	70	300	2,060	2,680	860	610
April 2000	45,480	6,200	[1]—	70	300	1,940	2,460	860	570
April 2001	41,720	5,780	[1]—	80	280	1,790	2,250	840	540
April 2002	40,660	5,800	[1]—	80	270	1,770	2,220	880	560
April 2003	39,330	5,770	[1]—	80	290	1,640	2,160	880	710
April 2004	38,120	5,900	[1]—	80	320	1,600	2,240	840	730
April 2005	37,260	5,760	[1]—	90	320	1,740	2,160	770	680
April 2006	38,460	5,580	10	90	340	1,680	2,110	810	560
March 2007	36,790	5,320	10	90	340	1,700	2,030	720	430
October 2008	[2]34,330	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
April 2009	[2]35,320	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
September 2009	[2]34,380	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—

Date	*All TA other ranks*	*WO1*	*WO2*	*Staff Sergeant*	*Sergeant*	*Corporal*	*Lance Corporal*	*Private*
April 1997	51,060	170	1,530	2,410	4,060	6,380	7,320	29,200
April 1998	50,820	200	1,560	2,410	4,020	6,340	7,210	29,070
April 1999	45,620	200	1,590	2,360	3,950	6,100	6,910	24,510
April 2000	39,280	200	1,520	2,130	3,490	5,410	6,110	20,420
April 2001	35,940	190	1,340	1,840	3,080	4,780	5,380	19,340
April 2002	34,860	190	1,320	1,830	2,910	4,570	4,960	19,080
April 2003	33,570	180	1,300	1,760	2,790	4,180	4,550	18,740
April 2004	32,220	180	1,300	1,720	2,760	3,900	4,400	17,960
April 2005	31,490	210	1,310	1,730	2,670	3,680	4,070	17,820
April 2006	32,880	220	1,340	1,720	2,560	3,480	3,760	19,790
March 2007	31,470	230	1,330	1,690	2,420	3,230	3,450	19,110
October 2008	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
April 2009	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
September 2009	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—

[1] = Zero or rounded to zero.

[2] = Denotes provisional.

[3] = Denotes unavailable.

Notes:

TA Personnel include Group A and B, Mobilised TA, OTC and NRPS. FTRS are excluded.

April 2003 includes 60 TA soldiers of unknown rank.

After April 2007 Territorial Army Officer and Soldier breakdowns are not included due to JPA data validation issues.

Figures have been rounded to 10; numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

These figures represent the continuation of a process of rebalancing TA strength to the reduced requirement on the Reserves which started as part of the Options for Change process in 1991 when TA strength was 90,068.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many first-class flights were taken by each Minister in her Department in 2008-09; and what the *(a)* origin, *(b)* destination and *(c)* cost was of each such flight. [298759]

Tessa Jowell: Information on Ministers' travel overseas is published on an annual basis. The list for 2008-09 can be accessed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/226022/travel_2008_2009.pdf

and a copy is available in the Libraries of the House.

Travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many freedom of information requests under consideration by the Information Commissioner concern information held by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [296761]

Tessa Jowell: This is a matter for the Information Commissioner. However, my hon. Friend may wish to be aware that the Information Commissioner's Office has published a list of requests under consideration, as of September 2009, on their website:

http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/freedom_of_information/research_and_reports/foi_and_eir_caseload_snapshot_september_2009.pdf

A copy of this list has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what use her Department makes of electronic auctions when undertaking procurement exercises. [299474]

Angela E. Smith: Cabinet Office policy is to always select the procurement strategy most likely to provide best value for money. To date, the Department has not used electronic auctions directly. As a major user of collaborative procurement, the Cabinet Office benefits from contracts placed by other Departments which employ electronic auction functionality.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much interns in *(a)* No. 10 Downing street and *(b)* the Cabinet Office are paid. [299450]

Angela E. Smith: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office. The Cabinet Office pays interns a salary which is commensurate with the grade of the role that the intern is filling.

Disclosure of Information

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) pursuant to the answer of 28 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 267-8W, on Operation Miser, if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's protocol on handling unauthorised disclosures and national security cases; [299254]

(2) if she will place in the Library a copy of the Cabinet Office document guidance on leak investigation policy and procedures. [299320]

Tessa Jowell: The guidance document "Official Information: standards of conduct and procedures" is being prepared and will shortly be sent to Departments. It will incorporate protocols for the investigation of unauthorised disclosures. The guidance will be submitted to the chairman of the Public Administration Select Committee and will be placed in the Library of the House.

Publishing details of working methods and investigative techniques would compromise the effective conduct of investigations in future.

Dorneywood

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office by what process the trustees of Dorneywood are appointed. [299417]

Tessa Jowell: The trustees of Dorneywood are appointed as follows:

One trustee is nominated by the Prime Minister, being a person holding Cabinet or ministerial rank. One trustee is appointed by the Council of the National Trust. One trustee is appointed by a resolution of the trustees on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. Fourthly an additional trustee may be appointed by the other trustees.

The three non-ministerial trustees are appointed for a period of five years, renewable for a further period of five years, subject to the agreement of all the trustees.

Electoral Register

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what her most recent estimate is of the number of people eligible to register to vote in *(a)* local, *(b)* European and *(c)* UK parliamentary elections. [299166]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the most recent estimate is of the number of people eligible to register to vote in (a) local, (b) European and (c) UK Parliamentary elections. (299166)

ONS publishes the number of people registered to vote in local, European and Parliamentary elections but does not hold data on the number who are eligible to register. The mid-year estimate of the resident population, aged 18 and over, provides an approximation to this although not everybody who is usually resident is entitled to vote. For example, foreign citizens from outside of the EU and Commonwealth are not eligible.

The definition of the usually resident population is closer to the eligibility criteria for the local and European electorate than to those for the parliamentary electorate because the latter exclude EU citizens and include UK citizens resident abroad.

The mid-year estimate of the resident population aged 18 and over for the UK, for 2008 is 48,263,000. This is the most recent year for which estimates are available.

Futurebuilders England

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether she plans to renew the Futurebuilders England Fund Management Ltd. contract on its expiry. [299414]

Angela E. Smith: The services agreement for the Futurebuilders Programme between the Cabinet Office and Futurebuilders England Fund Management Ltd expires on 31 March 2011.

The Government are not yet in a position to make commitments to programmes which could extend beyond the current spending review period which runs from 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Government Departments: Taxis

Ian Stewart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what contracts her Department has with private hire taxi companies; and what information her Department holds on such contracts held by other Government departments. [299762]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office has one contract for the provision of taxi services. It is with Addison Lee and it is used for most pre-booked journeys where public transport is deemed unsuitable, for example due to unsociable hours or a lack of available alternatives.

The Cabinet Office has no information on contracts with private taxi companies held by any other Government Department.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Mr. Hague: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many serving Ministers have received requests to give evidence to the Chilcot Inquiry; and if she will make a statement. [293560]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the right. hon. Gentleman to the answer given to him by the Prime Minister on 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1210W.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many officials from her Department are seconded to work on the Chilcot Inquiry; and if she will make a statement. [293566]

Tessa Jowell: There are currently 19 staff employed in the Iraq Inquiry Secretariat, comprising both full and part-time staff drawn from Government Departments as follows: Cabinet Office, six; Ministry of Defence, four; Foreign and Commonwealth Office, three; Northern Ireland Office, one; Serious Fraud Office, one; Government Communications Headquarters, one; Department for International Development, one. These staff are either on secondment, loan or attachment. In addition, there are currently two temporary staff engaged from outside Government.

Lone Parents: Females

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many female lone parents there have been in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997; and what proportion of such women lived in council accommodation in each such year. [297380]

Mr. Ian Austin: I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of the numbers of households headed by female lone parents with dependent children and the proportions of those households living in social rented accommodation, in the North East and England, for each year since 1997 are provided in the following table. Data are not available at constituency level. Estimates for council accommodation are not available.

Female lone parents with dependent children[1]

	North East		*England*	
	Number of female lone parent households (thousand)	*Percentage of which are social renters*	*Number of female lone parent households (thousand)*	*Percentage of which are social renters*
1997	76	63	1,116	56
1998	75	61	1,157	56
1999	77	60	1,158	56
2000	79	60	1,194	55
2001	76	62	1,192	55
2002	73	63	1,233	54
2003	66	62	1,240	53
2004	71	61	1,261	52
2005	72	58	1,264	50
2006	74	55	1,287	50
2007	72	51	1,312	50

[1] Due to small sample sizes, figures are based on a three-year rolling average. 1997 represents the average for the period 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98.

Source:

Survey of English Housing

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many special advisers in the Government are *(a)* members of the Government Communications Network and *(b)* primarily involved in the field of communications. [299413]

Tessa Jowell: The "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers" sets out the nature of work a special adviser may do at their Ministers request. This includes media and communication activities.

Non-Governmental Organisations

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what definition of a quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisation her Department uses. [299410]

Tessa Jowell: This is not a formal term used within Government. The term "non-departmental public body"—or NDPB—has been used by successive Governments since 1980 and refers to a body which has a role in the processes of national Government, but is not a Government Department, or part of one, they accordingly operate to a greater or lesser extent at arm's length from Ministers.

Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what concerns the then Cabinet Secretary raised about the appropriateness of Mr Damian McBride's conduct when Mr McBride was a civil servant. [290134]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1038-39W, to the hon. Member for North Norfolk (Norman Lamb).

In relation to Mr. McBride's employment as a permanent civil servant it is not the Government's practice to disclose information relating to the employment of individual civil servants which is confidential between the employer and employee.

Smith Institute

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what payments her Department has made to the Smith Institute in the last 36 months. [299461]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office has not made any payments to the Smith Institute in the last 36 months.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Acceptable Behaviour Contracts: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many acceptable behaviour contracts have been *(a)* agreed and *(b)* breached in the London Borough of Bexley in each year since their inception. [298113]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) are non-statutory, voluntary agreements which are normally made between a perpetrator of antisocial behaviour and an antisocial behaviour agency or school.

Data on ABCs are collected by the Home Office through a voluntary survey of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships' (CDRPs) use of antisocial behaviour tools and powers. The latest published data indicate that 23 ABCs were made in Bexley between October 2003 and September 2008. Data on breach of ABCs are not collected by the Home Office.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidelines his Department operates to ensure that veterinary surgeons do not have conflicts of interest under section 6(5) of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. [298323]

Meg Hillier: Section 3.19 of the guidance of the operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (HC321) stipulates that when a named veterinary surgeon (NVS) has under any other statutory role under the terms of the 1986 Act a substantial interest in the scientific outcome of a programme of work, alternative provision should be made for the veterinary oversight of the animals in question.

Where the named veterinary surgeon holds a project licence, a different veterinary surgeon should be nominated to perform the duties of the named veterinary surgeon for that project.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether project licences issued under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 require the substances or products which may be tested on animals to be specified. [298337]

Meg Hillier: It is not Home Office practice to authorise individual studies. Instead, the relevant project licences permit the testing of specified classes of materials, such as medical and veterinary materials and chemicals, using specified methods, generally conducted according to international test guidelines. In addition the licences specify the checks that will be made about what is already known about the substance to be tested and the order in which the tests may be done. Other than in the case of vaccines or other biological materials requiring batch testing, such licences do not usually name each substance in a particular class.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether licensees are required to obtain the specific approval of his Department before testing a particular substance on animals under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. [298338]

Meg Hillier: Licensees are not required to obtain the specific approval of his Department before testing a particular substance on animals under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

It is not Home Office practice to authorise individual studies. Instead, the relevant project licences permit the testing of specified classes of materials, such as medical and veterinary materials and chemicals, using specified methods, generally conducted according to international test guidelines. In addition the licences specify the checks that will be made about what is already known about the substance to be tested and the order in which the tests may be done. Other than in the case of vaccines or other biological materials requiring batch testing, such licences do not usually name each substance in a particular class.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for project licences under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 he has rejected on the grounds that the procedures would cause severe pain or distress which cannot be alleviated in each year since 2004. [297978]

Meg Hillier: We do not hold the information requested. A feature of the regulatory regime under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 is the discussion that often takes place at an early stage between applicants (or prospective applicants) and the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate. When serious deficiencies are discovered with the proposals during these early discussions with the local inspectors, or within the establishments' local ethical review processes, proposals unlikely to meet the Act's stringent requirements are revised or withdrawn before formal refusal becomes necessary.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department issues guidance on the use of live animals for the purposes of training in *(a)* cervical dislocation and *(b)* injecting procedures carried out under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. [297979]

Meg Hillier: Standard condition 17 for designated scientific procedure establishments in appendix B of the guidance of the Operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 stipulates that the certificate holder is responsible for assuring competence for a non-regulated procedure such as humane killings by methods listed in schedule 1 of the 1986 Act.

Section 3.12 of the guidance stipulates that the project licence holder must ensure that personal licensees working under their control are adequately supervised and trained and that regulated procedures such as injecting substances are competently performed in accordance with the project licence authorities.

The training framework for those with key responsibilities under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 is set out in annex F of the guidance on the operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Module 2 of the Animal Research Training Course provides training on humane methods of killing appropriate to the relevant species and on the job training provides practical skills which would include injection techniques. The Home Office has also issued a code of practice—The Humane Killing of Animals under Schedule 1 to the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Only those with appropriate personal licence authorities may lawfully perform regulated procedures on protected animals and other than a limited range of specialist procedures project licences are not issued for training in manual skills.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bolton South East of 11 November 2003, *Official Report*, column 232W, on the Home Office, what steps he has taken to ensure that botulinium toxin tested on animals under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 is not used off-label for cosmetic purposes. [297980]

Meg Hillier: The Government's position has not changed. Under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 the Home Office grants licences for the testing on live animals of botulinium toxin for products licensed for clinical purposes as a prescription-only medicine.

The Home Office does not license the use of animals for the testing of cosmetic ingredients or products.

The off-label use of botulinium toxin products manufactured for therapeutic purposes is not a matter over which the Home Office has any control. Regulation of the uses made of health care products is a matter for the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), which is an executive agency of the Department of Health.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps he has taken to reduce levels of antisocial behaviour. [297982]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Over the past 12 years we have introduced a wide range of tools and powers to tackle antisocial behaviour which are being used by practitioners to bring relief to communities across the country. We are committed to driving down antisocial behaviour by supporting victims and making all local partners take fast and effective action against it.

On 13 October we announced a package of measures to improve the collective response to ASB, building on the Government's success in driving down antisocial behaviour. These are:

Encouraging Crime and disorder reduction partnerships to make full use of the use of tools and powers;

Challenging all CDRPs to set minimum local service standards so that the public have a clear set of commitments and know what they can hold agencies accountable for;

Stepping up action on breach of ASBOs including through better case management, increased publicity and the use of community impact statements;

Ensuring effective links between neighbourhood policing and neighbourhood management teams to resolve ASB in the community;

A new deal for victims and witnesses of ASB including extension of Victim Support service to victims and witnesses bringing ASB cases in the magistrates courts; funding for 85 new victims champions in pioneer areas, and those where people have high perceptions of antisocial behaviour; and

A national training campaign for ASB coordinators to improve their victim work.

In addition, the Policing Pledge, which puts the police on the side of victims, will be strengthened in the White Paper.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date his Department's qualitative review of anti-social behaviour orders commenced; which matters are being analysed as part of the review; what estimate he has made of the cost of the review; what methodology is being used; and when he expects *(a)* the study to be completed and *(b)* the review to be published. [297148]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has commissioned two pieces of work evaluating interventions to tackle antisocial behaviour. These are:

Research to examine local variations in the use of antisocial behaviour interventions. This work was conducted by Ipsos MORI and comprised a survey sent to all CDRP ASB co-ordinators and multi stakeholder focus groups within eight CDRPs. All sites that participated in the focus groups were informed that the details of areas and individuals involved would remain anonymous to facilitate the open sharing of views and prevent identification of individuals involved.

This research project contract costs were £37,700 and the field work was conducted between February and May 2008. The findings of this study will be published in due course.

An evaluation of the comparative effectiveness of interventions to address antisocial behaviour. This started in December 2008 and results from this evaluation are due in early 2010. A mixed methodology has been used in this study with a quantitative data exercise to meet the PAC recommendation of gathering information on the extent to which individual and situational characteristics influence the effectiveness of interventions to tackle ASB. Qualitative data has been collected through interviews and case files reviews.

Once again all sites that participated in the qualitative research were informed that the details of areas and individuals involved would remain anonymous to facilitate open sharing of views and to prevent the identification of both victims and perpetrators of ASB. Contract costs for the project are £200,463. The research will be published in due course.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders in each category are in force in relation to residents of *(a)* Peterborough constituency, *(b)* Peterborough City Council area and *(c)* Cambridgeshire. [297790]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The latest available published data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued covers the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2007 and are not available below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

The number of ASBOs issued at all courts in the Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice System area on application and the number issued following conviction is 49 and 103 respectively, a total of 152.

ASBOs can be of a fixed duration (for a minimum of two years) or made until further order. It is therefore not possible to determine from centrally collected data how many ASBOs are in force at a particular point in time except by reference to individual court files which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people under the age of 18 years *(a)* were given and *(b)* breached an anti-social behaviour order in the London Borough of Bexley in each year since their inception. [298112]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data centrally collected by the Ministry of Justice on the number of antisocial behaviour orders issued and breached is not available below Criminal Justice System area level.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Children

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he intends to take to implement the automatic issue of parenting orders following the breach of an anti-social behaviour order by a child. [298493]

Mr. Hanson: We will bring forward legislation to achieve this as soon as parliamentary time allows. Implementation of legislation would entail guidance to the courts and practitioners and would be drawn up in consultation with practitioners and other relevant Government Departments and agencies.

Arrest Warrants

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many European arrest warrants have been issued by the UK police and other authorities in respect of nationals of each other EU member state since January 2004. [295793]

Meg Hillier: The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) are the designated authorities in the UK for the receipt and transmission of European arrest warrants (EAWs).

Since 1 January 2004 until 31 March 2009, UK authorities transmitted 836 EAWs to other EU member states. These resulted in 376 people being surrendered to the UK.

It is not possible from current systems to break down this data into the nationality of the subject. A breakdown of data by nationality of the subject could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many European arrest warrants followed by extradition have been issued by each EU member state since 2004. [295864]

Meg Hillier: The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) are the designated authorities in the UK for the receipt and transmission of European arrest warrants (EAWs). SOCA cannot comment on the number EAWs transmitted between other EU member states.

SOCA is only able to provide details of EAW requests processed by the agency and formerly by the National Criminal Intelligence Service. These figures were given in a previous reply on 9 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 814-15W.

Asylum

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of asylum seekers who will present at the UK Border Agency in Croydon once it becomes the central place of presentation. [295171]

Mr. Woolas: Prior to Croydon being designated as the single site for the screening of in country asylum applicants, Liverpool ASU completed an average of five to 10 asylum screening appointments per day for main asylum applicants. This is the number of extra people who will be expected now to make their claim in Croydon.

Croydon ASU saw an average of 39 applications daily prior to its designation as the single site for screening of in country applicants.

Since 14 October the highest number of applications seen in a week has been 42.

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the written ministerial statement of 13 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 20-21WS, on asylum, on what grounds he decided that the asylum screening unit in Croydon should be the only location at which initial asylum applications may be made; what assessment he has made of the likely effects on Croydon of that decision; and if he will allocate funds to Croydon borough council for the purposes of making provision for an increase in demand on local services consequent on the closure of the Liverpool asylum submissions unit to initial asylum applications. [295519]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 28 October 2009]:* An operational decision was taken to re-designate the asylum screening unit (ASU) in Liverpool to a further submissions unit (FSU). Failed asylum seekers who wish to submit any further submissions now have to do so in person instead of by post, as we believe it is appropriate to see individuals in person when they submit information about their asylum claim, as evidence suggests that the majority of further submissions are not accepted as a fresh claim. We think that requiring people to make further submissions in person will discourage abuse and help us run a more efficient system so that people who are in need of our protection get it without delay.

We also believe that anyone seeking asylum should do so at the first available opportunity—this means on arrival at a port of entry. So only those who have failed to claim on arrival will be required to travel to Croydon to make their asylum application. The decision to designate Croydon ASU as the single site for applicants to lodge a claim for asylum reflects this fact. It also reflects the fact that the impact on Croydon is not expected to be dramatic as Croydon ASU has the capacity and existing infrastructure to screen the limited numbers of applicants that are expected to lodge an asylum claim at ASU Croydon once ASU Liverpool is redesignated. Before the change Liverpool ASU were booking on average between five—10 appointments a day. This is the number of extra people who will be expected now to make their claim in Croydon. It is therefore considered that the effects on Croydon would be minimal, particularly as a partial appointment system has been introduced which allows increased opportunity to manage the flow of intake into the ASU.

There are insufficient grounds to allocate Croydon borough council more funds as a very small proportion of those who claim asylum in Croydon will remain there. Those asylum applicants who are destitute will be accommodated away from London and the south-east and there are transitional arrangements to take account of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children claiming in Liverpool. Once these transitional arrangements have ended, there should be minimal financial affect on Croydon borough council as the UK Border Agency fully funds the council on a per day basis for each UASC they are responsible for. Additionally, the numbers of additional UASC claiming asylum at Croydon ASU are not expected to be significant.

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers on the list of legacy cases *(a)* have been granted permission to remain in the United Kingdom and *(b)* are known to have left the country in (i) the last 12 months and (ii) the most recent period for which statistics are available. [298383]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency is continuing to clear the backlog of the older asylum cases. Lin Homer, the Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency, writes to the Home Affairs Select Committee every six months with a performance update in the resolution of the older asylum cases. She most recently reported that up to the end of September 2009 the UK Border Agency had granted some form of leave to remain in 74,000 asylum legacy cases and had removed over 30,000 cases. Up until the end of October 2008 the UK Border Agency had granted some form of leave to remain [illegible] 51,000 asylum legacy cases and had removed over 23,500 cases. A copy of these letters has been placed in the Library of the House.

Asylum: Iraq

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of applications for asylum by former Iraqi locally employed civilians were rejected for having failed to amass 12 months' continuous service; and how many such applications fell short by periods of one month or under. [298611]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

Over 50 per cent. of all applications received from former members of the locally engaged staff have failed because the applicant did not meet the criteria set out in my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's written ministerial statement of 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 30WS.

Of these, the majority failed because the applicant had not completed 12 months' continuous service. Other reasons for failure were that the employment was not directly with the Government; the employment did not fall within the stated categories; or the applicant had been dismissed for disciplinary reasons.

The information on numbers of those who failed because they had one month or less required service is not held centrally and would involve searching over 600 paper files held by four employing Departments. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of former Iraqi locally employed civilians who have applied for asylum in the UK remain outstanding. [298614]

Mr. Woolas: As of 2 November 2009, the UK Border Agency is considering the applications of 35 former Iraqi locally employed civilians for resettlement to the UK.

These data are normally used for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply to National Statistics publications. These data are provisional and may be subject to change.

Asylum: Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials of the UK Border Agency of each civil service grade are directly employed in making initial decisions on asylum claims. [297616]

Mr. Woolas: All asylum claims are carefully considered on an individual basis and a range of staff across the UK Border Agency may be engaged during the process of reaching any specific decision. For this reason it is not possible to give a definitive figure for the number of UK Border Agency staff of each grade directly involved in making initial asylum decisions.

The main responsibility for initial asylum decision making rests with asylum case owners who manage claims through to their full conclusion of grant of leave to remain or removal. The agency has recently completed the appointment and training of over 250 new asylum case owners in regional teams in order to continue to hit its challenging targets to conclude new asylum claims within six months.

Asylum: Young People

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 13, on asylum applications, what change there has been to the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people in Croydon in the last 12 months according to records held by his Department. [297457]

Mr. Woolas: Our records indicate that 731 unaccompanied asylum seeking children were in the care of Croydon council on 31 March 2008, and 708 on 31 March 2009.

Borders: Patrol

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vessels were *(a)* intercepted and *(b)* boarded by the Royal Navy in UK territorial waters in each of the last 10 years. [288549]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

Other than the Fishery Protection Squadron, Royal Navy units do not board vessels in UK territorial waters as a matter of course. The information on boardings of UK and non-UK vessels conducted by the Fishery Protection Squadron in each year since 1997 is provided in the following table.

	Number of boardings
1997	1746
1998	1814
1999	1779
2000	1654
2001	1515
2002	1287
2003	1704
2004	1713
2005	1466
2006	1279
2007	1378
2008	983

Information for other boardings is not held in the format requested and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Christmas functions organised by his Department and its agencies *(a)* his predecessor, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* officials of its agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [295480]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Computer Misuse Act 1990

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many warrants were issued under section 14 of the Computer Misuse Act 1990 in the last four years. [298074]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

Information showing the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, and found guilty at all courts for offences under sections 1, 2, 3 and 3 A of the Computer Misuse Act 1990 in England and Wales from 2004 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table. From the information available on the Ministry of Justice court proceedings database it is not possible to identify if any of the proceedings and convictions resulted from a warrant issued under section 14 of the Computer Misuse Act 1990.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Computer Misuse Act 1990, England and Wales, 2004-07[1, 2]

	2004		*2005*		*2006*		*2007*	
Offence	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Unauthorised access to computer material. Section 1	5	3	5	4	7	4	8	3
Unauthorised access with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences. Section 2	6	2	11	7	5	4	2	—
Unauthorised modification of computer material. Sections 3 and 3A.	10	7	8	5	13	10	9	7
Total	21	12	24	16	25	18	19	10

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Counter-Terrorism

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have received assistance from the Channel project for vulnerable individuals at risk of extremism since 1 January 2009; how many such people were under *(a)* 16 years and *(b)* 12 years old; how many such people were not Muslim; what evaluation of the outcomes of the programme has been undertaken; what proportion of people assisted by the Channel project were found to have been at risk of becoming violent extremists; and on what grounds such findings were made. [296635]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* We hold the following data on Channel which covers the period April 2007-December 2008:

Between April 2007-December 2008:

228 referrals were made to the Channel project

The known age range of those referred to Channel as potentially vulnerable to violent extremism and in need of multi-agency support was seven-50 years.

The majority of referrals were aged between 15-24 years;

Of those referred to Channel as potentially vulnerable to violent extremism and in need of multi-agency support 93 per cent. were male.

We will be publishing, shortly, a guidance document on Channel for partnerships. This document will include and reflect feedback and the implementation lessons learned from some of the longest running sites.

There is no single profile of a violent extremist. There are a range of factors and vulnerabilities that may facilitate the process of radicalisation. Delivering the Prevent Strategy: An Updated Guide for Local Partners includes a description of the factors that might make a person more susceptible to exploitation by violent extremists. These include: open support for violent extremist causes; possession of violent extremist material and behavioural change. Local partners work together and use their professional judgement to assess an individual's vulnerability to being drawn in to violent extremism.

Referrals are made on the basis of this assessment.

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent steps he has taken to reduce the incidence of violent crime against people with learning disabilities; [297984]

(2) what recent steps he has taken to reduce the incidence of violence against people with physical disabilities. [297985]

Mr. Alan Campbell: On 14 September 2009 we launched the Cross-Government hate crime action plan. This brings together the range of work being delivered across Government and criminal justice agencies to tackle all forms of hate crime, including violent hate crime against people with physical or learning disabilities. Action 58 provides for the Department of Health and the Home Office to develop guidance for learning disability partnership boards on effectively preventing and responding to hate crime. The Home Office is also engaged with the Department for Health, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Office in the review of the "No Secrets" guidance on safeguarding vulnerable adults.

We have also published a strategy for reducing all forms of violence "Saving lives. Reducing harm. Protecting the public. An Action Plan for Tackling Violence 2008-11" in February 2008 and have recently published an update on progress "An Action Plan for Tackling Violence 2008-11. One Year On". The refreshed document reports on the progress that has been made over the last year and looks at what more can be done to prevent violent crime. This includes exploring opportunities across government for early identification of all forms of violence and abuse, including against people with learning and physical disabilities.

Criminal Records

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received following the Court of Appeal judgment on 19 October 2009 on the retention of individual records on police computers; and if he will make a statement. [295270]

Meg Hillier: We have received no representations to date.

It is vital that we do everything we can to protect the public from crime and this judgment provides valuable clarification of how we can continue to do so through retaining conviction data on the police national computer (PNC).

My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has asked the newly appointed Independent advisor for criminality information management, Sunita Mason, to review how criminal records on the PNC are retained and disclosed. She will work closely with the police to develop proposals for a fair and proportionate approach.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his latest assessment is of the effectiveness and efficiency of his Department's procurement of technology and equipment. [297809]

Meg Hillier: My overall assessment of the Department's procurement of technology and equipment is of a strong performing, effective and efficient commercial capability. The assessment is based on a number of factors, put in place over the past two years, which are bearing positive results. These include:

The development and implementation of a three year procurement strategy, approved by the board in April 2007, which focuses on delivering holistic procurement, with as much focus on supplier/contract management and buying operations as on sourcing contracts;

The implementation and operation of category segmentation into strategic and non-strategic areas, with a professional organisation designed and in place to manage spend and suppliers accordingly;

Investments made to upgrade the procurement capability, specifically through the creation of a procurement centre of excellence and upgrading technology in support of eProcurement applications;

The Office of Government Commerce procurement capability review which ranked the Department the second best performing Government Department;

Independent research from Ipsos/Mori reported that 93 per cent. of suppliers rate their relationship with the Department to be good or excellent;

The National Audit Office review of managing major contracts commended the Department for implementing and managing successful benchmarking of major IT contracts;

The Department was the first central Government Department to have Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) accredited policies and procedures in place;

The work by the Identity and Passport Service in sourcing the strategic framework for the national identity scheme has been recognised across Government as an exemplar to manage the procurement and suppliers of large scale complex IT programmes;

The Department has recently concluded successful negotiations with its two major suppliers of IT services (Fujitsu and Atos Origin), which will result in contractually agreed savings of £112 million over the next six years.

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department travelled by (i) car, (ii) rail and (iii) air on Government business in each year since 1997. [298541]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office does not record the mileage of journeys for Government business made by any of the Ministers or their officials.

This could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials while overseas in each of the last three years. [294695]

Mr. Woolas: The Cabinet Office annual lists of overseas trips undertaken by Ministers costing over £500 can be accessed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/proprietyandethics/ministers/travelgifts.aspx.

The list for 2008-09 was published on 16 July. This and earlier lists are available in the Library of the House.

Information relating to how much was spent on overnight accommodation for officials while overseas could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code and the civil service management code respectively.

Deportation: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people resident in the West Midlands were deported in 2008. [295342]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 27 October 2009]*: Information relating to the number of residents in the West Midlands deported in the same year can be obtained only through the detailed examination of individual case files which would incur a disproportionate cost.

Statistics on the control of immigration in 2008 including removal figures can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1409.pdf.

Educational Institutions: Fraud

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills in the last six months on the number of bogus colleges in operation. [2927[illegible]]

Mr. Woolas: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has not met with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills specifically to discuss bogus colleges. I have met with my right hon. Friend the Member for Tottenham (Mr. Lammy) and there has been regular discussion between officials in the two Departments about the points-based system generally and bogus colleges in particular. We estimate that around 1,500 colleges have ceased to operate.

Entry Clearances

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many academic staff from each overseas country have applied for visas to *(a)* work and *(b)* lecture in the UK in each of the last 12 months; how many such applications were refused; and if he will make a statement. [297721]

Mr. Woolas: There is provision in the immigration rules (paragraph 46G) for non-EEA nationals to enter as business visitors, including academic visitors. Prior entry clearance is only mandatory for visa nationals. Academics coming to participate in a conference or seminar where it is a single or occasional event, and the event is not a commercial venture, may enter as academic visitors. Those who intend to come to the UK solely to undertake a series of lectures for which they will receive a fee will normally be required to seek entry for employment purposes under tier 2 of the points-based system. Tier 2 applications from Academics cannot be separately identified.

The number of (1) applications received; (2) visas issued; and (3) visas refused in the academic visitor category in each of the last 12 months (October 2008 to September 2009) is shown in the following table. A separate table has been placed in the House of Commons Library which gives this information for each nationality.

Reporting period	*Endorsement DESC*	*Applications*	*Issued*	*Refused*	*Withdrawn*	*Lapsed*	*Resolved*
October 2008	Academic visitor	294	242	35	15	0	292
November 2008	Academic visitor	226	188	32	15	0	235
December 2008	Academic visitor	257	195	25	5	0	225
January 2009	Academic visitor	278	251	26	3	2	282
February 2009	Academic visitor	285	258	47	5	8	318
March 2009	Academic visitor	358	279	49	8	1	337
April 2009	Academic visitor	338	254	26	13	2	295
May 2009	Academic visitor	440	411	50	15	3	479
June 2009	Academic visitor	548	452	63	5	1	521
July 2009	Academic visitor	533	440	57	2	0	499
August 2009	Academic visitor	433	377	71	6	0	454
September 2009	Academic visitor	454	359	62	8	1	430
Total (number)		4,444	3,706	543	100	18	4,367

Reporting period	*Endorsement DESC*	*Applications*	*Issued*	*Refused*	*Withdrawn*	*Lapsed*	*Resolved*
Refusal rate (percentage)				12			

Source:
CRS 2 November 2009.
The data are unpublished and should be treated as provisional.

Equipment: Theft

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the value of heavy plant and equipment stolen in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [297913]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 5 November 2009]*: The Home Office has not recently estimated the cost of the theft of heavy plant and equipment. The plant and agricultural national intelligence unit of the Metropolitan police estimates that approximately £1.5 million of construction and agricultural plant machinery is stolen in the UK every week.

I am aware that vehicle security experts Thatcham estimate the total cost to the UK of plant theft to be upwards of £600 million per year.

The Home Office takes the theft of plant and equipment very seriously. That is why the Home Office scientific development branch (HOSDB) published the "Security Guidance Document for Agricultural and Construction Plant", which was launched by me, in my capacity as the Minister for crime reduction at the construction industry theft solutions conference on 3 November this year.

The new guidance provides up to date advice and information for the agricultural and construction industries, helping them to protect themselves from theft. The guidance was first published in January 2008, and has been revised and updated in the light of technological developments and our most recent understanding of the methods used by criminals to steal agricultural and plant machinery.

I am grateful to the plant theft action group (PTAG), established by the Home Office but now operated by and for the plant industry, and to the plant and agricultural national intelligence unit of the Metropolitan police (PANIU) for their support in producing the updated guidance.

PTAG and PANIU are also continuing to make a significant contribution to the reduction of plant theft through developments such as the CESAR plant marking and registration scheme, and the publication of guidance on construction site security.

The availability of the HOSDB plant security guidance, the PANIU site security guidance and the CESAR scheme are together proving successful at reducing plant theft and increasing rates of recovery of stolen plant.

Fraud: Direct Selling

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration he has given to the development of a password system to reduce the number of crimes which involve bogus doorstep callers. [298691]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 176W.

Identity Cards

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many identity card readers had been issued as at 1 October 2009. [297621]

Mr. Woolas: Identity cards issued to British citizens and foreign nationals can be read, in the same way as machine-readable passports, at border controls at all significant points of entry to the United Kingdom. Additionally, 12 specialist card readers have to date been issued for use by Home Office staff, for use at major ports and enforcement operations. These readers have been issued as part of a pilot to allow more sophisticated card reading checks.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the number of applications for an identity card required for the scheme to be wholly funded from application fees; what methodology was used to make that estimate; and how many and what proportion of people in Manchester have applied to participate in the scheme. [298088]

Meg Hillier: Fees have yet to be agreed for 2011 and beyond and will need to be agreed with HM Treasury during 2010. However, over time, we expect national identity service costs to be recovered through fees.

As published in the October 2009 national identity service cost report, over the time period October 2009 to October 2019, we expect to have issued approximately 88 million products.

These are total product volumes, including transactions associated with the replacement of lost or damaged items (but excludes transactions that do not require product issuance, such as changes of address). In many cases the same application will result in the issuance of both a passport and identity card.

Up to and including 2 November, almost 12,000 people have registered their interest in the national identity service. So far 17 per cent. of those registered are from the Greater Manchester area.

Illegal Immigrants: Ports

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants were detected at the *(a)* Hull, *(b)* Dover, *(c)* Portsmouth and *(d)* Southampton port of entry in the last six months for which figures are available. [297614]

Mr. Woolas: In the period April 2009 to September 2009 inclusive, the UK Border Agency border force north region served illegal entry papers to 1,866 entrants, of which 571 were clandestine entrants. This answer relates to illegal immigrants detected within the north region of the UKBA border force, which includes Hull.

In the same period, the UKBA border force south region served illegal entry papers to 2,957 entrants, of which 2,715 were clandestine entrants. This answer relates to illegal immigrants detected within the south region which includes Dover, Portsmouth and Southampton.

Immigration

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Ministers in his Department approved the issue of the UK immigration service's operational instruction 01/2704, dated 7 July 2004; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the instruction. [297023]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 2 November 2009]*: There is no legal requirement for Ministers to clear operational instructions of this nature. It is not possible, from the information currently available, to confirm whether operational instruction 01/2704 was approved by Ministers in the Home Department. The instruction is no longer extant and has been surpassed by chapter 4 of the border force operational manual. The current instruction was reviewed and authorised by a UK Border Agency director, on behalf of the Secretary of State.

All operational instructions are electronically archived on the UK Border Agency database for a fixed period and are not routinely forwarded to the House of Commons Library. However, in this instance, I can confirm that a copy of operational instruction 01/2704 will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Immigration: Young People

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what requirements there are on travellers below a given age to carry a letter of permission to travel alone; and what steps are taken to verify such letters. [294509]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Government have no specific requirements for travellers below a certain age to carry a letter of permission to travel alone. However, most carriers have their own policy on children travelling unaccompanied and published Government guidelines advise parents to check with the relevant carrier prior to booking a ticket.

Where a child arrives in the UK unaccompanied, the UK Border Agency will only allow them entry/admission once they are satisfied that suitable arrangements are in place for their care.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 22 September 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Jonathan Roche. [297635]

Alan Johnson: We have checked our records and have no record of receiving this letter. However, I understand that my right hon. Friend had in fact written to my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead dated 13 May 2009 on employment policy and visas. [298720]

Mr. Woolas: I wrote to the hon. Member on 10 November 2009.

Offenders: Deportation

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals in the UK who at the time of being sentenced to a term of imprisonment were ordered at the end of that term to be deported and who have completed their term of imprisonment and have yet to leave the UK. [296405]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency continues to build upon the success we have made with the deportation and removal of foreign national prisoners. In 2008 we deported or removed a record 5,395 foreign national prisoners. The process of deportation can be delayed in a number of ways through last minute legal barriers and the documentation process is often lengthy for some nationalities.

As at 1 August 2009 there were approximately 1,800 foreign national offenders detained under immigration powers who had completed their sentence and were awaiting deportation.

Passports: Northern Ireland

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff are employed at the Passport Office in Belfast; and what the operational cost of that office was in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [297648]

Meg Hillier: There were 141 members of staff employed in the Belfast Passport Office in September 2009. The operational cost of the office was £12.4 million for the last 12 month period.

Police Cautions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have received police cautions in the last 12 months. [298212]

Mr. Hanson: As reported to the Ministry of Justice, the number of persons cautioned in England and Wales in 2007 (latest available) is 362,889. Cautions and court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Police: Doncaster

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers were in post in Doncaster on the most recent date for which figures are available; and how many (i) police officers were in post in each year since 1997 and (ii) police community support officers were in post in each year since 2002 in Doncaster. [298639]

Mr. Hanson: The available data are provided in the table. This information has been collected at basic command unit level since April 2002 for police officers and since June 2004 for police community support officers.

Police officers and PCSOs in Doncaster Basic Command Unit, as at 31 March[1] [2]

	Police officers	*PCSOs*[3]
2009	502	74
2008	528	74
2007	537	73
2006[3]	542	37
2005[3]	526	36
2004	549	n/a
2003	533	n/a

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] Data on police officer strength by police basic command unit was collected centrally for the first time for the period beginning April 2002. Therefore, data broken down by BCU are not available prior to that.

[3] PCSO figures in 2005 and 2006 are as at 30 June. No data are available for PCSOs prior to 2005.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals are serving prison sentences in England and Wales. [298899]

Mr. Woolas: Figures published by the Ministry of Justice confirm that at June 2009 there were 11,400 foreign nationals held. This figure includes those in the immigration removal centres Dover, Haslar and Lindholme as well as those held on remand or serving custodial sentences.

Statistics on the number of foreign nationals held in the individual prisons and immigration removal centres can be found at the Ministry of Justice's website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/population-in-custody-06-2009.pdf

Proceeds of Crime

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will bring forward proposals to enable proceeds of crime recovered in individual police force areas to be used for local community organisations in those areas. [298658]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Last month the Government announced details of local projects to be funded under the £4 million Community Cashback scheme, which gave communities a say on how recovered criminal assets are spent. Eight local projects are being supported under the scheme in the south Yorkshire area with total funding of £98,000. In addition many police forces use a portion of the money they receive under the asset recovery incentive scheme to support local projects in the community.

Terrorism: Crime Prevention

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 9, on Prevent, what his most recent assessment is of the operation of the Prevent strand of his Department's counter-terrorism strategy in the Waltham Forest area; and if he will make a statement. [296828]

Mr. Hanson: Waltham Forest is one of the strongest performing boroughs in east London on Prevent. It is also a beacon borough for 'cohesive and resilient communities', which is in part a reflection of its good work on Prevent. Waltham Forest contributes positively to the national Prevent agenda and has a strong multi agency partnership, which is delivering a wide range of Prevent projects.

Vetting

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* standard and *(b)* enhanced checks from the Criminal Records Bureau were outstanding on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many such checks were outstanding on the same date in each year since 1997. [290143]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 12 October 2009]*: Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding. Data are not fully available in the format requested. Total applications in progress for the last four years on the latest date for which figures are available are:

As at 30 September each year	*Total applications in progress*
2009	266,023
2008	274,618
2007	142,031
2006	213,130

These figures represent the total number of applications that were being processed as at 30 September in the last four years but do not show the length of time each individual application has been in the system.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the number of people seeking registration with the Independent Safeguarding Authority under the vetting and barring scheme in the next five years. [298491]

Meg Hillier: It is estimated that up to 11.3 million people will join the vetting and barring scheme over five years.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average he expects it to take for an application for registration under the vetting and barring scheme to be processed by the Independent Safeguarding Authority. [298492]

Meg Hillier: Applications for registration under the vetting and barring scheme (VBS) are processed by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB). The target date for all applications for registration to be processed by the CRB is within seven days of receipt.

The Independent Safeguarding Authority is involved only if the registration process indicates that criminal records or other information must be considered.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those convicted of *(a)* killing and *(b)* abusing children who were (i) known and (ii) not known to the victim had been subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check in each of the last five years. [298771]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* The Criminal Records Bureau does not hold this information.

Violent and Sex Offender Register

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many offenders with records on the violent and sex offender register whose nationality is not British are recorded as residing at a UK address; [298084]

(2) how many offenders of each nationality have records on the violent and sex offender register. [298085]

Mr. Alan Campbell: For the purposes of the register, it is not mandatory to record the nationality of the offenders concerned. The information requested is not otherwise held centrally, and could be obtained through comparison of individual records with other databases only at disproportionate cost.

Wickham Research Laboratories: Animal Experiments

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visits by inspectors of scientific procedures on animals have been made to Wickham Laboratories in the last two years; how long each visit lasted; and what report inspectors made on each visit. [298182]

Meg Hillier: Wickham Laboratories was visited by a Home Office inspector four times in 2007 and four times in 2008. There have also been four visits in 2009 to date.

At present we do not have details of how long each visit lasted and what report inspectors made on each visit. We will write separately as soon as the information is available.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Death

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce alcohol-related deaths. [298797]

Gillian Merron: The Government have a comprehensive strategy, "Safe. Sensible. Social. The next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy", to tackle alcohol harm, including alcohol-related deaths. This is based on informing and supporting people to make healthier and more responsible choices, creating an environment in which the healthier and more responsible choice is the easier choice, providing advice and support for people most at risk and providing a delivery system that effectively prioritises and delivers action on alcohol misuse. Key actions include:

the Government's "Know Your Limits" campaign to challenge "binge drinking' and the public acceptability of drunkenness by highlighting the attendant personal and social consequences, and improving the public's knowledge of alcohol units and of the heath risks associated with regular drinking of alcohol above the recommended guidelines;

the development of a range of new kinds of information and advice, such as interactive web-based support and advice, available nationally;

publishing the School of Health and Related Research review assessing the effects of alcohol price and promotion on health, crime and employment;

investing £8 million through a directed enhanced service in primary care nationwide to promote early identification of drinking alcohol linked to health harm and brief interventions to reduce excessive drinking;

identifying a series of High Impact Changes (HIC) on alcohol for primary care trusts (PCTs) to help them identify the key actions they can undertake to reduce alcohol-related health harms, including improving the effectiveness and capacity of specialist treatment for dependence on alcohol;

on 5 November 2008, we launched the Alcohol Improvement Programme, which includes new funding for regional alcohol managers to coordinate the Alcohol Improvement Programme in each region; the Alcohol Learning Centre, an on-line resource which promotes sharing of good practice; and a National Support Team for Alcohol providing support to local commissioners;

from April 2008, a new NHS Indicator to reduce alcohol-related hospital admissions, which provides a real incentive for local PCTs to provide alcohol prevention and treatment services. 99 PCTs and 75 local authority areas have returned plans showing that they have retained or adopted this indicator for 2009-10;

in June 2008, we established World Class Commissioning (WCC) competencies against which all PCTs are assessed, with prevention of alcohol-related harm appearing as one of the 10 most frequently chosen outcome measures; and

in July 2009, we published 'Signs for Improvement', which provides alcohol-specific commissioning guidance, built on WCC principles, specifically for PCTs to aid them in commissioning appropriate and effective interventions and treatment. A copy has been placed in the Library.

The Department supports Government-wide action such as the recent consultation by the Home Office on a mandatory code for alcohol retailers. This includes proposals to restrict irresponsible alcohol promotions.

Barnet Primary Care Trust

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many requests for treatment outside service level agreements were made to Barnet primary care trust in each of the last three years; what estimate was made of the cost of meeting such requests in each such year; how many requests were *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused in each year; what the cost was of the treatment provided in each year; and if he will make a statement. [298700]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not held centrally.

Barnet Primary Care Trust: Drugs

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Barnet primary care trust spent on pharmaceutical drugs in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [298701]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The net ingredient cost of drugs prescribed in Barnet primary care trust, for the most recent three financial years is given in the following table.

Barnet primary care trust: prescribing in British National Formulary Chapters 1-19

Financial year	*Net ingredient cost £000*
2006-07	47,820.9
2007-08	48,417.7
2008-09	48,968.1

Blood: Screening

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review the scope of the current routine blood test for the purposes of extending it to include testing for levels of B12 serum; and if he will make a statement. [298278]

Ann Keen: The particular blood test or tests a clinician requests will vary according to the circumstances of an individual patient's case including the symptoms with which they present, their medical history, and information about their family or occupation.

Cancer: Diagnosis

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 803W, on cancer: diagnosis, what his capital and revenue cost estimates are for *(a)* new buildings, *(b)* new equipment and *(c)* additional staff; and from which of his Department's budgets any additional revenue costs will be drawn. [295769]

Ann Keen: Further work is being undertaken to finalise the costs of implementing these plans, and to refine the modelling and assumptions that underlie them. This will take account of the investment made to date in improving cancer and diagnostic services and new models of delivery.

Initial estimates are as follows:

> Capital costs will be about £650 million between the periods 2011-12 and 2014-15; and
>
> Early estimates of revenue costs are in the region of £1,250 million between the periods 2011-12 and 2015-16. (This corrects my written answer given to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire on 13 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 802W in which it was stated that the revenue costs were for the period 2011-12 and 2014-15).

Final costing requirements and profiling will be worked up over the coming months in consultation with the national health service taking into account new models of delivery and changes in working practices.

Care Quality Commission: Political Activities

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1268W, on party conferences, how much the Care Quality Commission spent sending representatives to attend each of the party political conferences in 2009; and whether the Care Quality Commission obtained prior permission from the Cabinet Office to attend. [298713]

Phil Hope: As required by Cabinet Office guidance, the Care Quality Commission gained approval from the Department of Health to attend the three main party conferences. This approval was obtained from the Department of Health prior to attendance at these conferences.

The amounts spent were as follows:

£

	Liberal Democrat party conference	*Labour party conference*	*Conservative party conference*
Travel costs	247	398	1,274
Pass costs	840	2,138	3,035
Accommodation costs	720	7,470	4,056
Total	1,807	10,006	8,365

Note:
All amounts have been rounded off to the nearest pound.

Colindeep Lane Clinicenta

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the level of clinical activity at the Colindeep lane Clinicenta; what treatments are available at the centre; and how many patients from each postcode area have been treated at the centre. [298873]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not held centrally.

Dental Services: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust has access to a consultation in public health dentistry. [299242]

Ann Keen: It is for primary care trusts to plan and commission services to meet the needs of their local population.

However, we are advised by the South West Strategic Health Authority that Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust has assigned a consultant in public health to work with its dental commissioning team in identifying oral health needs and targeting services appropriately.

The Department recognises that there is a shortage in consultants in dental public health. The Chief Dental Officer has commissioned a review of the dental public health work force to show how we can best address this problem.

Dental Services: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what progress is being made in the provision of NHS dentistry in the Stroud area through the dental access programme; and what interest has been shown in the forthcoming tender by existing local dentists; [299235]

(2) what plans he has to increase access to NHS dentistry in the Stroud area; and what target he has set for the number of patients having access to an NHS dentist. [299236]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available has been placed in the Library.

It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to plan and commission services to meet the needs of their local population.

'The NHS in England: The operating framework for 2009-10', a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, commits all PCTs to ensuring access to national health service dentistry for all who actively seek it. In January this year, the NHS committed to delivering this by at the latest March 2011. Delivering the 2011 goal requires every PCT to assess the level of local demand for NHS care. A dental access programme has been set up to support PCTs in increasing local provision of services where this is needed.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with which organisations his Department has had exclusivity agreements relating to information technology *(a)* hardware and *(b)* software in each of the last five years. [299360]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Over the last five years the Department has not held contracts which contain exclusivity agreements for the provision of information technology hardware or software.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department was in the last 12 months. [299589]

Phil Hope: No special advisers are provided with an allocated Government car and driver. As with all civil servants, special advisers may use an official care or taxi in properly defined circumstances. Details of such use is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1261W, on departmental rail travel, how many *(a)* journeys were paid for and *(b)* people travelled in each year; whether any nugatory expenditure was incurred in each year; and if he will make a statement. [298176]

Phil Hope: The following figures represent travel booked through the central booking system which constitutes the vast majority of how travel is booked and paid for. Information on nugatory expenditure can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

	Journeys paid for	*Number of passengers*
2006-07	20,538	20,538
2007-08	22,549	22,549
2008-09	27,502	27,502

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department travelled by (i) car, (ii) rail and (iii) air on Government business in each year since 1997. [298546]

Phil Hope: The data requested before 2007 is not held centrally. Data for 2007-08 and 2008-09 is available from our central booking systems but this does not represent all the travel conducted by Ministers and officials this could only be provided at disproportionate cost. Information from our central booking systems is as follows:

Miles

	Car	*Rail*	*Air*
2007-08	121,327	285,946	3,739,056
2008-09	117,304	232,713	4,487,720

Edgware Hospital

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans there are for the improvement of services at Edgware hospital; and if he will make a statement. [298698]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This is information is not held centrally.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make representations to Northwick Park hospital to take up the opportunities open to it for the treatment of its patients at Edgware Community hospital; and if he will make a statement. [298699]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The commissioning and organisation of local health services is the responsibility of the local primary care trust (PCT), and you may wish to discuss this with the chief executive of Barnet PCT.

Finchley Memorial Hospital

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on plans for the redevelopment of Finchley Memorial hospital. [298874]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This is a matter for the local national health service, however I understand that the Stage 1 Business case is now with NHS London.

General Practitioners

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS body determines the proportion of GP appointments at a practice which may be booked in advance; what guidance his Department has issued on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [298876]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: It is for general practitioner (GP) practices to decide how their appointments are divided between quick appointments and those that can be booked further ahead.

"Improving Access, Responding to Patients: A 'how to' guide for GP practices" was launched on 2 September, and has been distributed to all GP practices and every primary care trust and strategic health authority. This guide gives practical advice on setting up appointment systems, which meet patients' needs and preferences. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

Health Centres: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made on plans for GP-led health centres in Barnet; and if he will make a statement. [298875]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This is a matter for Barnet primary care trust.

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report,* column 1985W, on health services (overseas residence), what estimate he has made of the *(a)* non-reciprocal income received and *(b)* bad debts and claims abandoned in respect of overseas patients in relation to Newark in each of the last 10 years. [2991[illegible]]

Gillian Merron: None of the national health service organisations serving the Newark area, as shown in the following list, reported any income from overseas patients under non-reciprocal agreements in any year going back to 2002-03. Similarly, none of these organisations reported any bad debts written off in respect of overseas patients in any year going back to 2002-03. Information before 2002-03 is not available centrally.

NHS organisations covering Newark:

Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Nottinghamshire County Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT)

Bassetlaw PCT

Newark and Sherwood PCT

Central Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust

King's Mill Centre for Health Care Services NHS Trust

Notes:

1. This data is not held for foundation trusts. Therefore, data for Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for 2008-09 and 2007-08 is not included.
2. In April 2001, Central Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust and King's Mill Centre for Health Care Services NHS Trust merged to form Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Trust.
3. Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was authorised as a foundation trust on 1 February 2007.
4. The Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT was formed in October 2006 following the merger of six former PCTs: Ashfield, Broxtowe and Hucknall, Gedling, Mansfield District, Newark and Sherwood, and Rushcliffe.

Source:

Audited summarisation schedules

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with which countries the UK has bilateral health agreements under paragraphs 4(m) and 4(o) of the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989. [299167]

Gillian Merron: Under Regulations 4(m) and 4(o), the United Kingdom has bilateral health agreements with the following countries:

Regulation 4(m) nationals of European Economic Area countries:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus (Southern), Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, UK, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Switzerland by special arrangement.

Regulation 4(o) Other bilateral healthcare agreements:

Anguilla, Armenia*, Australia, Azerbaijan*, Barbados, Bosnia*, British Virgin Islands, Croatia*, Falkland Islands, Georgia*, Gibraltar*, Isle of Man, Kazakhstan*, Kyrgyzstan*, Macedonia*, Moldova*, Montenegro*, Montserrat, New Zealand*, Russia*, Serbia*, St. Helena, Tajikistan*, Turkmenistan*, Turks and Caicos Islands, Ukraine* and Uzbekistan*.

Note:

Those countries marked with an asterisk apply to the nationals of those countries and UK nationals only. The others cover those countries' residents, irrespective of nationality.

Herbal Medicine

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the proportion by value of all medicinal products used which were herbal medicines in the latest period for which figures are available. [299602]

Gillian Merron: Information on the value of medicinal products used, including herbal medicinal products, is not collected.

Hospitals: Admissions

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* between 45 and 55, *(b)* between 55 and 65 and *(c)* 65 years and over were readmitted to hospital within three days of being discharged in the latest period for which figures are available. [298666]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information routinely available from the compendium of clinical and health indicators is limited to information on emergency readmissions 28 days after discharge from hospital. A special analysis of data on emergency readmission rates was published by the Department in October 2008 and a copy has been placed in the Library. This shows that in 2006-07, the last year for which data were then available, 43,560 patients were readmitted as emergency readmissions within one day of discharge (14.9 per cent, of all emergency readmissions) and 104,255 within two to seven days of discharge (35.6 per cent.). An analysis by age group is not available.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people aged 85 years and over in *(a)* England and *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber strategic health authority who had at least one emergency readmission to hospital in (i) 1997, (ii) 2003, (iii) 2007 and (iv) the latest year for which information is available; [298145]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* England and *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority who had at least one emergency readmission to hospital in (i) 1997, (ii) 2003, (iii) 2007 and (iv) the last year for which information is available; [298146]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of people aged 60 years and over in *(a)* England and *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority who had at least one emergency re-admission to hospital in (i) 1997, (ii) 2003, (iii) 2007 and (iv) the last year for which information is available. [298147]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information available, based on information provided by the national centre for health outcomes development, is set out in the following table. Information on the number of people who have experienced at least one emergency readmission (as opposed to the total number of emergency readmissions), and information for the precise age groups requested, is not available and could not be obtained at proportionate cost.

Emergency readmissions to hospital within 28 days of discharge from hospital (excluding cancer, maternity and mental health patients)

Age group	*0-15 years*			*16-74 years*			*75+ years*			*All ages*		
FY	*1998-99*	*2003-04*	*2007-08*	*1998-99*	*2003-04*	*2007-08*	*1998-99*	*2003-04*	*2007-08*	*1998-99*	*2003-04*	*2008-08*
England	60,531	62,721	77,631	204,905	243,316	309,589	94,283	123,769	159,134	359,719	429,806	546,354
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority	7,057	7,196	7,400	26,878	28,803	33,240	12,285	15,052	17,339	46,220	51,051	57,979

Notes:
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Compendium of Clinical and Health Indicators/Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base (www.nchod.nhs.uk)
Source:
Hospital Episodes Statistics NCHOD FY vFeb 2009 (Extracts may only be reproduced by permission.)

Hospitals: Bedfordshire

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people aged 60 years and over in *(a)* England and *(b)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency who had at least one emergency readmission to hospital in (i) 1999, (ii) 2004, (iii) 2008 and (iv) the most recent 12 months for which information is available. [299081]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information available, based on information provided by the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development, is set out in the following table. Information on the number of people who have experienced at least one emergency readmission (as opposed to the total number of emergency readmissions), and information for the precise geographical area and age group requested, is not available and could not be obtained at proportionate cost.

Emergency readmissions to hospital within 28 days of discharge from hospital (excluding cancer, maternity and mental health patients)

	Financial year		
	1999-2000	*2004-05*	*2007-08*
0 to 15 years			
England	60,330	66,003	77,631
Central Bedfordshire Unitary Authority	326	263	319
16 to 74 years			
England	207,000	268,242	309,589
Central Bedfordshire Unitary Authority	622	1,077	993
75+years			
England	96,329	139,011	159,134
Central Bedfordshire Unitary Authority	362	590	552

Emergency readmissions to hospital within 28 days of discharge from hospital (excluding cancer, maternity and mental health patients)

	Financial year		
	1999-2000	*2004-05*	*2007-08*
All ages			
England	363,659	473,256	546,354
Central Bedfordshire Unitary Authority	1,310	1,930	1,864

Source:
Hospital Episodes Statistics; National Centre for Health Outcomes Development, Compendium of Clinical and Health Indicators.

Liver Diseases

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people aged *(a)* 18 years and over, *(b)* 60 years old and over and *(c)* 85 years and over who were diagnosed with a liver condition in (i) England and (ii) Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority in each year since 1997. [298143]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of people diagnosed with a liver condition is not collected centrally.

The Government are taking forward their commitment to tackling liver disease by recruiting a new National Clinical Director to lead the development of a National Strategy for Liver Disease.

Local Government Services

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on participating in the Total Place initiative with local councils. [298440]

Phil Hope: The Department is participating fully in the Total Place initiative. I sit on the Ministerial Group overseeing Total Place. David Behan (Director General for Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships) and Mike Farrar (Chief Executive of North West Strategic

Health Authority) sit on the High Level Total Place Officials Group chaired by Sir Michael Bichard. The Department is also building links at working level to Total Place pilots as appropriate. We are working with the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Treasury, and local pilots to respond to recommendations and findings of Total Place as they emerge.

Malnutrition: Elderly

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many older people had a delayed discharge from hospital as a result of malnutrition in the latest period for which figures are available. [298667]

Phil Hope: Information on the number of people who had a delayed discharge from hospital as a result of malnutrition is not collected centrally.

Medical Records

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patient records are held in *(a)* electronic form and *(b)* paper form in (i) acute care and (ii) primary care trusts. [298295]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not collected centrally and could be obtained, if at all, only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have made a written request to view information in their medical record in each year since 1998; and how many of these requests were refused in each year. [298330]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether a breach of the criteria established for the successful introduction of electronic patient records at the end of November 2009 constitutes a ground for the termination of local service provider contracts. [298350]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: All the national programme for information technology local service provider, and national application service provider, contracts contain provisions appropriate to contracts of their size and complexity to address foreseeable delivery and service issues. This includes provision for the termination of the whole contract, or a part of the services provided by a contractor, depending on the materiality of any divergence from the strict terms of the contract. However, termination is a step that the Department will only contemplate after every opportunity, and all possible assistance had been given to enable a contractor to recover its position. Achievement of the published criteria for progress in delivery of the Lorenzo and Millennium care records systems by the end of November will be assessed on this basis.

Medical Treatments

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations his Department has received on the operation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's supplementary advice on appraising treatments which may extend life, at the end of life, since 17 December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [297311]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Between 17 December 2008 and 29 October 2009, the Department has responded to five questions from hon. Members and noble Lords relating to the operation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) end-of-life flexibilities.

Over the same period, the Department has received 495 pieces of correspondence relating to NICE, some of which will relate to the operation of the end-of-life flexibilities. Information on specific correspondence on the flexibilities could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health to what medicines which *(a)* have been appraised and *(b)* are under appraisal by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's supplementary advice on appraising treatments which may extend life, at the end of life, adopted on 17 December 2008, has been applied; what estimate he has made of the total annual eligible patient population for each indication for each such medicine; what the outcomes were of each completed appraisal; and if he will make a statement. [297314]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is in the following table.

Appraisal status	*Appraisal title*	*Population (approx)*[1]	*End of life criteria fulfilled for all or some of potentially eligible patient population*	*Recommendation*
Published	Sunitinib for the first line treatment of advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma	4,000	Yes	Partial recommendation
Published	Lenalidomide for the treatment of multiple myeloma	2,500	Yes	Partial recommendation
Published	Bevacizumab for the first-line treatment of advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma	4,000	Applicability considered by the appraisal committee but did not meet end of life criteria	Not Recommended
	Sorafenib for the first and second-line treatment of advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma	4,000	Yes	Not recommended

Appraisal status	Appraisal title	Population (approx)[1]	End of life criteria fulfilled for all or some of potentially eligible patient population	Recommendation
	Sunitinib for the second-line treatment of advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma	4,000	Applicability considered by the appraisal committee but did not meet end of life criteria	Not recommended
	Temsirolimus for the first-line treatment of advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma	4,000	Yes	Not recommended
Published	Sunitinib for the treatment of gastrointestinal stromal tumours	150	Yes	Partial recommendation
Ongoing	Lapatinib for the treatment of breast cancer	2,000	Applicability considered by the appraisal committee but did not meet end of life criteria	Final guidance not yet issued
Ongoing	Sorafenib for the treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma	Less than 1,000	Yes	Final guidance not yet issued
Ongoing	Trabectadin for soft tissue sarcoma	500-600	Yes	Final guidance not yet issued
Ongoing	Azacitidine for myelodysplastic syndromes	700	Applicability considered by the appraisal committee but did not meet end of life criteria	Final guidance not yet issued

[1] Approximate number of people annually with the condition. This will not necessarily represent the number of patients eligible for treatment with the drug.

Source:
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Medical Treatments: Compensation

Mr. Marshall-Andrews: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what ex-gratia payments have been made by his Department to *(a)* persons adversely affected by thalidomide and *(b)* other NHS patients who have been adversely affected by NHS treatment. [294725]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Ex-gratia payments have been made to the Thalidomide Trust in 1974 (£5 million) and 1978 (£0.8 million) to offset the tax liability of the fund.

A final payment of £7 million was made in 1996. This payment was expressed by the then Health Ministers as being for the unique and tragic circumstances that surrounded the thalidomide disaster and did not constitute a tax offset.

There are three ex-gratia schemes in the United Kingdom that make payments to those infected with either HIV or hepatitis C via national health service supplied contaminated blood and blood products: The Macfarlane and the Eileen Trusts (for HIV) and the Skipton Fund (for hepatitis C). To the end of March 2009, around £50 million has been paid out via the Macfarlane and Eileen Trusts and almost £100 million has been paid out via the Skipton Fund.

Ex-gratia payments have been made to other NHS patients adversely affected by NHS treatment, however data is not collected centrally.

Mental Health Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged over 65 years received services under the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme in the latest period for which figures are available. [298668]

Phil Hope: Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services are available to adults of all ages on the basis of need. These services are specifically for the treatment of mild to moderate depression and/or anxiety disorders.

The Department does not routinely collect national data about the age profile of those who have accessed the first phase of the national roll-out of IAPT services. However, following the end of the first full year of operation, the Department is currently undertaking a National Data Review to examine the impact of the new services. This will include identification of the age profile of people who have accessed these services.

The findings of this review will be available in early 2010.

Mentally Ill: Community Care

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many community treatment orders have been *(a)* challenged, *(b)* overturned after a challenge and *(c)* over-ruled following a second opinion; [299057]

(2) how many patients have been recalled from a community treatment order since they were introduced; [299061]

(3) how many patients have been subject to a community treatment order. [299062]

Phil Hope: Community treatment orders (CTOs) were introduced on 3 November 2008. In England between 3 November 2008 and 31 March 2009, CTOs were made on 2,134 occasions. During this period, there were 207 cases in which patients on community treatment orders were recalled to hospital. Information is not yet available centrally on the number of CTOs made and the number of recalls to hospital since April 2009.

As at 6 November 2009, the First-tier Tribunal in England has received 716 applications resulting in 22 discharges from CTOs. In addition, 23 patients have been discharged as a result of automatic references to the First-tier Tribunal. There is no procedure in the Mental Health Act 1983 by which CTOs can be over-ruled by a second opinion.

National Skills Academy for Social Care

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many courses the social care skills academy offers; how many enrolments that academy has recorded; and what the cost to the public purse of that academy was on the latest date for which figures are available. [299202]

Phil Hope: The National Skills Academy for Social Care was launched on 13 October 2009. It will be working to develop training and learning practice on leadership, management and commissioning skills in adult social care.

It has launched a National Management Trainee Scheme, which has placed 20 graduates into employer organisations in the adult social care sector, for the first time, to develop future leaders for the sector. It is working with training providers to accredit and endorse training and will be commencing a pilot approach with these providers in the new year as well as working on delivering apprenticeships. The initial focus of the skills academy will be about improving the retention rates of those on social care courses.

The National Skills Academy for Social Care receives funding from the Learning and Skills Council and from the Department of Health. The following table sets out the funding to date.

			£000
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*Total*
Learning and Skills Council	187.5	[1]112.5	300
Department of Health	1,073.0	[2]3,645.0	4,618
Total	1,160.5	3,757.5	4,918

[1] Learning and Skills Council funding is to end June 2009. [2] Department of Health funding is for the full year.

Until the official launch on 13 October 20009, the Skills Academy as an organisation did not exist and funding was provided to the Social Care Institute of Excellence.

NHS: Computer Software

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much local service providers have been paid for the *(a)* set-up costs and *(b)* running costs of each of the Lorenzo systems deployed in NHS trusts; and what his latest estimate is of the average cost per site of deploying the Lorenzo software system. [299006]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The average agreed deployment charge per site for full deployment of all bundles of service of the Lorenzo software system, when complete, is £6.468 million.

The total of payments made to the local service provider, to 30 September 2009, for deployment (set-up) activity to date for Lorenzo products is £434,400. In the same period, service charge (running cost) payments have totalled £27,117.

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the highest number of live concurrent users of the Lorenzo software system at NHS Bury *(a)* at any one time and *(b)* on any one day. [299192]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As at 9 November 2009, the highest number of live concurrent users logged into the Lorenzo software system at the NHS Bury primary care trust (PCT) at any one time is 93. This occurred on the day the PCT went live with the system, on 3 November 2009.

NHS: Drugs

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what drugs used in the NHS are known to have teratogenic effects; and if he will make a statement. [297456]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Drugs can have harmful effects (teratogenic effects) on the foetus at any time during pregnancy, with the period of greatest risk being from the third to the eleventh week of pregnancy.

The safety, efficacy and quality of each new medicine is thoroughly evaluated as part of the licensing procedure. European guidelines define the types of tests which should be undertaken, including those that assess the potential harm to a developing foetus.

The available information is reflected in the product information for each medicine which contains a specific section that summarises the information in relation to safety of use during pregnancy. This is kept under review to ensure patients and prescribers are given accurate up to date information. A summary source of this information is appendix 4 of the British National Formulary (BNF). The BNF is provided free to prescribers and pharmacists within the NHS.

NHS: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the projected lifetime costs are in respect of each contractor under the national programme for IT in the NHS; and how much each such contractor had been paid on the latest date for which figures are available. [299189]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Relevant information is contained in the following table.

National programme for IT by key elements: Projected lifetime costs and expenditure to 31 March 2009

		£ million
Core contracts	*Projected lifetime costs*[1]	*Expenditure to 31 March 2009*[1]
London	1,021	326
South	1,104	133
North East	1,035	276
East	930	237
North West and West Midlands	1,042	271
Spine	889	791
N3 Network	554	554
Choose and Book	144	133
Amount retained by Accenture[2]	110	-52

Notes:

1. Figures in the two columns are not directly comparable. The projected lifetime costs are shown at 2004-05 prices, and final outturn will be higher due to inflation in subsequent years. Those for expenditure to 31 March 2009 are resource outturn figures.

2. In 2006, Accenture made arrangements to voluntarily novate the company's contract to another existing supplier under the programme. Of the £179 million Accenture had received to that point the company retained £110 million for work completed. £52 million represents the value, for accounting purposes, of moneys repaid as at 31 March 2009.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the expenditure on the implementation of the iSOFT Lorenzo care record service at *(a)* the South Birmingham Primary Care Trust, *(b)* University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust, *(c)* Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, *(d)* Hereford Hospitals Trust and *(e)* Five Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust. [298291]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Expenditure incurred in implementing computerised record systems at national health service trusts has two components. A one-off 'deployment charge' is paid when the trust has accepted the system, and there will be local costs associated with preparation, deployment and support.

The agreed deployment charge for full deployment of all bundles of service, when complete, at the South Birmingham PCT, University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust, Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust, and Five Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust is £4.758 million in each case. For Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust the agreed charge is £8.090 million. Information is not held centrally about the local costs, which will vary from trust to trust.

These figures are at contract base-year values, exclude indexation, and do not reflect actual payments made to date.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department plans to give to NHS trusts to enable them to purchase applications developed through the NHS interoperability toolkit; and from which budgets such funds will be drawn. [298292]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The national health service interoperability toolkit is intended to allow and encourage trusts to build or procure innovative new applications at the local level that are able to use information from core systems supplied through the national programme for information technology. NHS organisations have always been expected to pay for any additional assets and services that they request or require over and above the national programme standard functionality. There will therefore be no additional funding to enable trusts to purchase toolkit-compliant applications.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of users expected to be using *(a) the* Cerner Millennium care records system and *(b)* the iSOFT Lorenzo care records system by the end of November 2009. [298293]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Numbers of users will depend on progress achieved in deployment of the systems concerned by that date.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS hospitals have made payments to primary care trusts consequent on a failure to meet a target; which targets were not met; and how much was paid in each case. [298296]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not held centrally.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions the Care and Quality Commission has carried out inspections of *(a)* acute trusts and *(b)* private healthcare providers to ensure compliance with the Care and Quality Commission's core standard C4b in the last 12 months. [298968]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As part of the 2008-09 Annual Health Check, the Care Quality Commission inspected five acute trusts in relation to core standard C4b.

Private health care providers are not subject to core standards.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of *(a)* acute trusts and *(b)* private healthcare providers were found to be compliant with the Care and Quality Commission's core standard C4b at the time of their most recent inspection by the Commission. [298969]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As part of the 2008-09 Annual Health Check, the Care Quality Commission judged 151 out of 169 acute trusts to be compliant with core standard C4b.

Private health care providers are not subject to core standards.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS targets have been discontinued in each of the last six months. [299686]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department constantly reviews the appropriateness of the performance indicators it uses. As a result, in his interim report "High Quality Care for All: Our Journey So Far" published on 30 June 2009, Lord Darzi recommended dropping the maximum 26-week inpatient standard and 13-week outpatient standard as these have been superseded by achievement of the 18 weeks standard. We are currently consulting on this issue.

Pleural Plaques

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people have been diagnosed with pleural plaques in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* England in each year since 1997; [298064]

(2) how many people have required treatment for pleural plaques in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [298092]

Ann Keen: The only information available, relating to the number of in-patient admissions to hospital with a primary diagnosis of pleural plaques, is given in the following table. Information is given for the strategic health authority and primary care trust areas matching most closely those requested. Information on the number of people diagnosed with pleural plaques as a result of consultations in primary care or in hospital out-patient clinics is not available. In the great majority of cases pleural plaques result in no symptoms and do not require treatment.

Count of admissions[1] into hospital where there was a primary diagnosis of pleural plaque[2] in England, North East Strategic Health Authority of treatment[4] and South Tyneside Primary Care Trust of responsibility[3] from 1997-98 to 2008-09, activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	England	North East Strategic Health Authority of treatment	South Tyneside Primary Care Trust of responsibility (5KG)
2008-09	646	47	*
2007-08	614	39	*
2006-07	570	34	*
2005-06	506	37	7
2004-05	433	31	6
2003-04	379	25	7
2002-03	357	22	*
2001-02	352	30	*
2000-01	337	22	*
1999-2000	283	26	*
1998-99	291	19	*
1997-98	245	*	*

Notes:

[1] *Finished admission episodes*

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

[2] *Primary diagnosis*

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

The IC10 diagnosis code for pleural plaque is J92.

[3] *Primary Care Trust (PCT) of Responsibility*

A derived field providing the primary care trust responsible for the patient. Commissioning responsibility for individual patients rests with the PCT with whom the patient is registered. This means that patients with a GP in one PCT area may reside in a neighbouring or other area but remain the responsibility of the PCT with whom their GP of registration is associated. PCTs are also responsible for non-registered patients who are resident within their boundaries.

[4] *Strategic Health Authority (SHA) of Treatment*

This field is derived from the hospital provider code (procode). It indicates the SHA area within which the treatment took place.

Small numbers

To protect patient confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) has been suppressed.

Data quality

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Prescription Drugs

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what timetable he has set for his Department's consultation on generic substitution; and what the scope of that consultation will be; [299190]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with pharmaceutical companies on generic substitution. [299191]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are currently refining our proposals for the implementation of generic substitution. The start date for the consultation process has not yet been agreed but we still expect this to start later this autumn. We expect the consultation period will last 12 weeks and the exact timetable for implementation will therefore be influenced by the outcome of this consultation.

In order to inform proposals, departmental officials have been discussing the introduction of generic substitution with the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, the Ethical Medicines Industry Group, the British Generic Manufacturers Association, the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee and the General Practitioners' Committee of the British Medical Association.

Primary Care Trusts: Public Relations

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to primary care trusts on their expenditure on public relations. [298304]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Primary care trusts are allocated a budget annually and must decide as individual trusts how to prioritise this. There is no guidance given to trusts on the amount of money they should spend on public relations activities as this is a matter that should be decided locally.

Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions his Department has had with South London Healthcare NHS Trust about the full closure of the accident and emergency department at Queen Mary's hospital. [298111]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has not had any discussions with South London Healthcare NHS Trust on this subject.

Thalidomide

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people identified as disabled by thalidomide are resident in each *(a)* primary care trust area and *(b)* local authority area. [298883]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Data are not collected centrally for people identified as disabled by thalidomide.

The Thalidomide Trust supports 463 people with thalidomide, however it is not known how many wish to be considered as disabled.

Transplant Surgery: Foreigners

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many overseas organ transplant patients from each country of origin have had transplant surgery in England since *(a)* March 2009 and *(b)* August 2009. [298209]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the number of deceased donor organ transplants in England in patients recorded as resident overseas (excluding the Republic of Ireland); between 1 March 2009 to 3 November 2009; and between 1 August 2009 to 3 November 2009.

Country	*March to November 2009*	*August to November 2009*
Greece	9	5
Malta	3	0
India	1	0
Cyprus	1	0
Kenya	1	0
Brazil	1	1
Total	16	6

The following table shows the number of living donor organ transplants in England in patients recorded as resident overseas (excluding the Republic of Ireland); between 1 March 2009 to 3 November 2009; and between 1 August 2009 to 3 November 2009.

Country	*March to November 2009*	*August to November 2009*
Kuwait	5	2
UAE	2	0
Egypt	1	0
Australia	1	0
Malta	1	0
Croatia	1	0
Pakistan	1	1
India	1	1
Total	13	4

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* cautions and *(b)* fines were imposed for (i) vandalism, (ii) graffiti, (iii) littering, (iv) throwing fireworks into any street or public place and (v) anti-social behaviour in each district and unitary council area in Essex in each of the last eight quarters for which records are available. [298273]

Claire Ward: The number of offenders given cautions, and those imposed with a court fine for selected offences of antisocial behaviour in the Essex police force area, by quarter, for 2006 and 2007 (latest available) is shown in tables 1 and 2.

Apart from criminal damage (which includes minor acts of vandalism and graffiti up to a value of £300), littering and throwing fireworks, penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) can also be issued for a range of other antisocial behaviour offences including behaviour likely to cause fear, alarm and distress (section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986). This disposal was introduced as part of the Government's strategy to tackle low-level, antisocial and nuisance offending. It has been designed to provide officers with a means of dealing with simple, straightforward cases in a prompt and effective way, saving police time, reducing bureaucracy and reserving courts for more complex cases. The number of PNDs issued in the Essex police force area in 2006 and 2007, by quarter, broken down by offence, is shown in table 3.

Information held by the Ministry of Justice cannot identify the district or unitary council area in which these offences were committed. Hence, data for the Essex police force area are given in lieu.

Court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Fixed penalty notices (FPNs) can be issued by local authorities for graffiti and littering offences. These data are collected annually by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. There were no fixed penalty notices issued for graffiti offences in Essex between April 2006 and March 2008. Information on fixed penalty notices issued for littering offences in each local authority in Essex are provided in table 4.

Table 1: Number of offenders cautioned[2] for antisocial behaviour offences for which a PND may be issued in Essex police force area, by quarter, for 2006 and 2007[1]

Statute	*Offence description*	2006 *Quarter 1*	*Quarter 2*	*Quarter 3*	*Quarter 4*	2007 *Quarter 1*	*Quarter 2*	*Quarter 3*	*Quarter 4*
Theft Act 1968 Sec. 1	Stealing from shops and stalls (shoplifting)[3]	447	488	485	649	690	694	668	559
Various	Other criminal damage[4]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Explosives Act 1875, Sec. 80	Throwing, casting or firing any fireworks in or into any highway, street, thc. public place	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Order Act 1986 Sec. 5	Harassment, alarm or distress	70	78	8	11	231	238	255	228
Police Reform Act 2002 Sch.4 Para.5 (Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S. 12). Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S. 12	Contravene a community support officers' requirement not to consume liquor Penalty offence under S.1 Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001—alcohol consumption in designated public places	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 1: Number of offenders cautioned[1] for antisocial behaviour offences for which a PND may be issued in Essex police force area, by quarter, for 2006 and 2007[2]

		2006				2007			
Statute	*Offence description*	*Quarter 1*	*Quarter 2*	*Quarter 3*	*Quarter 4*	*Quarter 1*	*Quarter 2*	*Quarter 3*	*Quarter 4*
Criminal Justice Act 1967 Sec. 91	Any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec. 3) para 4(1); Licensing Act 1964 Sec. 169(1)	Holder of occasional permission or his agent knowingly selling to, knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell, intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Selling etc intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Services Act 1947 Sec. 31	False alarms of fire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec. 87	Depositing litter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
British Transport Commission Act 1949 S.55; 56. Railway Offences Offences against Private Acts relating to Railways (other than 169, 1-6)	Trespass, throwing stones	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Criminal Law Act 1967 Sec. 5(2)	Causing wasteful employment of the police etc.	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Communications Act 2003 S. 127	Improper use of public electronic communications network	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	522	571	493	660	921	932	923	787

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time, the principal offence is the more serious offence. From 1 June 2000, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These are included in the totals.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] A PND may be issued to an offender as an alternative to a caution or prosecution only where the value of the item stolen is less than £200.

[4] Includes offences of vandalism and graffiti but is not exclusive to these offences.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Table 2: Number of defendants fined at all courts for antisocial behaviour offences for which a PND may be issued in Essex police force area, by quarter, 2006 and 2007[1, 2]

		2006				2007			
Statute	*Offence description*	*Quarter 1*	*Quarter 2*	*Quarter 3*	*Quarter 4*	*Quarter 1*	*Quarter 2*	*Quarter 3*	*Quarter 4*
Theft Act 1968 Sec. 1	Stealing from shops and stalls (shoplifting)[3]	77	90	89	84	114	73	91	68
Various	Other criminal damage[4]	15	12	10	6	4	0	4	0
Explosives Act 1875, Sec. 80	Throwing, casting or firing any fireworks in or into any highway, street, etc. public place	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Order Act 1986 Sec. 5	Harassment, alarm or distress	79	77	84	80	110	84	101	95

Table 2: Number of defendants fined at all courts for antisocial behaviour offences for which a PND may be issued in Essex police force area, by quarter, 2006 and 2007[1, 2]

		2006				2007			
Statute	*Offence description*	*Quarter 1*	*Quarter 2*	*Quarter 3*	*Quarter 4*	*Quarter 1*	*Quarter 2*	*Quarter 3*	*Quarter 4*
Police Reform Act 2002 Sch.4 Para.5 (Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S. 12). Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S. 12	Contravene a community support officers' requirement not to consume liquor. Penalty offence under S.1 Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001—alcohol consumption in designated public places	3	1	2	0	0	1	3	0
Criminal Justice Act 1967 Sec. 91	Any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour	44	40	60	39	31	24	38	34
Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec. 3) para 4(1). Licensing Act 1964 Sec. 169(1)	Holder of occasional permission or his agent knowingly selling to, knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell, intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Services Act 1947 Sec. 31	False alarms of fire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec. 87	Depositing litter	1	4	2	4	3	2	10	22
British Transport Commission Act 1949 S.55, 56. Railway Offences: Offences against Private Acts relating to Railways (other than 199, 1-8)	Trespass, throwing stones	1	5	3	3	1	2	2	3
Criminal Law Act 1967 Sec. 5(2)	Causing wasteful employment of the police etc.	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
Communications Act 2003 S. 127	Improper use of public electronic communications network	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
	Total	219	240	[illegible]	225	209	202	230	222

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes offences of vandalism and graffiti but is not exclusive to these offences.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Table 3: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued in Essex police force area, by offence and quarter, 2006 and 2007[1]

	2006				2007			
Offence description	*Quarter 1*	*Quarter 2*	*Quarter 3*	*Quarter 4*	*Quarter 1*	*Quarter 2*	*Quarter 3*	*Quarter 4*
Wasting police time	17	18	17	16	20	13	18	14
Misuse of public telecommunications system	4	7	8	7	3	4	4	3
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3

Table 3: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued in Essex police force area, by offence and quarter, 2006 and 2007[1]

Offence description	2006 *Quarter 1*	*Quarter 2*	*Quarter 3*	*Quarter 4*	2007 *Quarter 1*	*Quarter 2*	*Quarter 3*	*Quarter 4*
Causing harassment, alarm or distress	440	527	516	548	601	677	501	417
Throwing fireworks	2	4	0	12	1	0	0	11
Drunk and disorderly	240	246	192	193	97	89	134	134
Selling alcohol to under 18	8	17	11	58	21	45	21	24
Purchasing alcohol for under 18	0	0	4	2	3	1	3	4
Purchasing alcohol for under 18 for consumption on premises	0	0	1	0	4	2	4	2
Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	2	0	1	0	6	6	4	3
Criminal Damage (under £500)[2]	88	73	92	105	93	95	68	67
Theft (retail under £200)	259	207	195	235	234	279	221	306
Breach of fireworks curfew	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Possession of category 4 firework	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0
Sale of alcohol to drunken person	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Supply of alcohol to person under 18	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Trespass on a railway	0	1	3	4	4	0	1	1
Throwing stones at a train/railway	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Drunk in a highway	12	8	9	5	8	4	6	6
Consumption of alcohol in public place	0	0	4	1	2	8	44	17
Depositing and leaving litter	6	12	8	6	10	15	3	6
Consumption of alcohol to under 18 on licensed premises	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Allowing consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buying or attempting to buy alcohol for person under 18	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,078	1,120	1,065	1,198	1,110	1,241	1,033	1,018

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] Includes offences of vandalism and graffiti but is not exclusive to those offences.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice.

Table 4: Fixed penalty notices issued for littering

Number

Local authority	*April 2006 to March 2007* *Fixed penalties issued*	*Cases being prosecuted*	*April 2007 to March 2008* *Fixed penalties issued*	*Cases being prosecuted*
Basildon DC	19	1	39	9
Braintree DC	35	0	17	0
Brentwood BC	0	0	[1]—	[1]—
Castle Point DC	7	0	[1]—	[1]—
Chelmsford BC	25	2	[1]—	[1]—
Colchester BC	105	9	[1]—	[1]—
Epping Forest DC	0	0	[1]—	[1]—
Harlow DC	98	0	[1]—	[1]—
Maldon DC	2	0	14	1
Rochford DC	0	0	[1]—	[1]—
Southend-on-Sea BC	82	0	[1]—	[1]—
Tendring DC	72	0	78	10
Thurrock BC	150	2	[1]—	[1]—
Uttlesford DC	0	0	[1]—	[1]—

[1] No data as of yet (5 November 2009).

Source:

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Ashwell Prison

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 252W, on Ashwell prison; when he plans to publish the report of the investigation into the riot at HM prison Ashwell in April 2009; and for what reasons there has been a delay in publication. [292393]

Mr. Straw: In his written ministerial statement to the House on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns, 2-3WS, my right hon. Friend the member for Delyn (Mr. Hanson) told the House that a committee of the corporate management board of the Ministry of Justice would scrutinise the report and pass it to Ministers. That process has been completed and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has drawn up an action plan in response to each of the recommendations in the report, all of which were accepted by Ministers. I am today placing a copy of the action plan in the Library.

It would not be appropriate to publish a restricted report, containing sensitive information and while a police investigation is continuing. Key findings were, however that the incident could not have been foreseen; that the prisoners held at Ashwell were appropriate for the prison; and that staffing levels were also appropriate.

A strategic review of Ashwell is well underway, and I will report to the House once further decisions have been taken.

Cautions: Fines

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* cautions were given and *(b)* fines were imposed for offences of (i) vandalism, (ii) littering and (iii) antisocial behaviour in Mid Bedfordshire constituency in each of the last eight quarters for which records are available. [299079]

Claire Ward: The number of offenders given cautions, and those imposed with a court fine for selected offences of antisocial behaviour in the Bedfordshire police force area, by quarter, for 2006 and 2007 (latest available) is shown in tables 1 and 2 as follows.

Apart from criminal damage (which includes minor acts of vandalism and graffiti up to a value of £300) and littering, Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) can also be issued for a range of other antisocial behaviour offences including behaviour likely to cause fear, alarm and distress (section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986). The recipient of a PND has 21 days to either pay the penalty or seek a court hearing. No admission of guilt is required and the PND recipient discharges all liability for the offence and receives no criminal record if the penalty is paid. The number of PNDs issued in the Bedfordshire police force area in 2006 and 2007, by quarter, broken down by offence, is shown in table 3 as follows.

Information held by the Ministry of Justice is not available at parliamentary constituency level and therefore data for Bedfordshire police force area are given in lieu.

Court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) can be issued by local authorities for littering offences. These data are collected annually by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Information on fixed penalty notices issued for littering offences in Bedfordshire, by local authority area, are shown in table 4 as follows.

Table 1: The number of offenders cautioned[1] for antisocial behaviour offences for which a PND may be issued in Bedfordshire police force area, by quarter, for 2006 and 2007[2]

		2006				2007			
Statute	*Offence description*	*Quarter 1*	*Quarter 2*	*Quarter 3*	*Quarter 4*	*Quarter 1*	*Quarter 2*	*Quarter 3*	*Quarter 4*
Theft Act 1968 Sec 1.	Stealing from shops and stalls (shoplifting)[3]	224	250	194	219	182	182	153	170
Various	Other criminal damage[4]	124	109	114	109	129	122	136	122
Explosives Act 1875, Sec 80	Throwing, casting or firing any fireworks in or into any highway, street, etc public place	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public Order Act 1986 Sec 5.	Harassment, alarm or distress.	8	9	5	18	9	14	15	15
Police Reform Act 2002 Sch.4 Para.5 (Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S.12). Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S12.	Contravene a community support officers' requirement not to consume liquor. Penalty offence under S1 Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001—alcohol consumption in designated public places.	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Criminal Justice Act 1967 Sec.91.	Any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour.	1	—	8	2	1	1	—	—
Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 4(1). Licensing Act 1964 Sec169(1)	Holder of occasional permission or his agent knowingly selling to, knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell, intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Selling etc intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fire Services Act 1947 Sec 31.	False alarms of fire.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec.87.	Depositing litter.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
British Transport Commission act 1949 S.55,56. Railway Offences: Offences against Private Acts' relating to Railways (other than 169,1-6).	Trespass, throwing stones.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table 1: The number of offenders cautioned[1] for antisocial behaviour offences for which a PND may be issued in Bedfordshire police force area, by quarter, for 2006 and 2007[2]

Statute	*Offence description*	2006 *Quarter 1*	2006 *Quarter 2*	2006 *Quarter 3*	2006 *Quarter 4*	2007 *Quarter 1*	2007 *Quarter 2*	2007 *Quarter 3*	2007 *Quarter 4*
Criminal Law Act 1967 Sec 5(2)	Causing wasteful employment of the police etc	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Communications Act 2003 S.127	Improper use of public electronic communications network	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	339	368	322	348	321	319	306	307

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence. From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These are included in the totals.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] A PND may be issued to an offender as an alternative to a caution or prosecution only where the value of the item stolen is less than £200.

[4] Includes offences of vandalism and graffiti but is not exclusive to those offences.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Table 2: The number of defendants fined at all courts for anti-social behaviour offences for which a PND may be issued in Bedfordshire police force area, by quarter, 2006 and 2007[1, 2]

Statute	*Offence description*	2006 *Quarter 1*	2006 *Quarter 2*	2006 *Quarter 3*	2006 *Quarter 4*	2007 *Quarter 1*	2007 *Quarter 2*	2007 *Quarter 3*	2007 *Quarter 4*
Theft Act 1968 Sec 1	Stealing from shops and stalls (shoplifting)[3]	29	21	23	20	22	23	20	30
Various	Other criminal damage	2	7	4	11	8	1	2	3
Explosives Act 1875, Sec 80	Throwing, casting or firing any fireworks in or into any highway, street, etc public place	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Public Order Act 1986 Sec 5	Harassment, alarm or distress	6	12	10	12	12	22	11	11
Police Reform Act 2002 Sch.4 Para.5 (Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S.12) Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S12	Contravene a community support officers' requirement not to consume liquor. Penalty offence under S.1 Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001—alcohol consumption in designated public places.	11	4	1	—	3	1	1	4
Criminal Justice Act 1967 Sec 91	Any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour	8	16	7	19	20	11	23	17
Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 4(1). Licensing Act 1964 Sec169(1)	Holder of occasional permission or his agent knowingly selling to, knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell, intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Selling etc intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises	5	15	1	—	—	—	—	—
Fire Services Act 1947 Sec 31	False alarms of fire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec 87	Depositing litter	1	1	5	1	1	—	—	—
British Transport Commission act 1949 S.55,56. Railway Offences: Offences against Private Acts' relating to Railways (other than 169(1-4))	Trespass, throwing stones	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—

Table 2: The number of defendants fined at all courts for anti-social behaviour offences for which a PND may be issued in Bedfordshire police force area, by quarter, 2006 and 2007[1, 2]

		2006				2007			
Statute	*Offence description*	*Quarter 1*	*Quarter 2*	*Quarter 3*	*Quarter 4*	*Quarter 1*	*Quarter 2*	*Quarter 3*	*Quarter 4*
Criminal Law Act 1967 Sec 5(2).	Causing wasteful employment of the police etc.	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Communications Act 2003 S.127	Improper use of public electronic communications network	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	Total	62	76	51	63	69	58	62	66

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence. From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1988 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These are included in the totals.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Includes offences of vandalism and graffiti but is not exclusive to those offences.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Table 3: The number of penalty notices for disorder issued in the Bedfordshire police force area, by offence and quarter, 2006 and 2007[1]

	2006				2007			
Offence description	*Quarter 1*	*Quarter 2*	*Quarter 3*	*Quarter 4*	*Quarter 1*	*Quarter 2*	*Quarter 3*	*Quarter 4*
Wasting police time	—	1	5	1	5	1	2	4
Misuse of public telecommunications system	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	2
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Causing Harassment, alarm or distress	169	174	154	137	102	122	104	148
Throwing fireworks	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Drunk and disorderly	56	65	87	82	74	57	69	62
Selling alcohol to under 18	9	4	—	—	2	4	3	4
Purchasing alcohol for under 18	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Purchasing alcohol for under 18 for consumption on premises	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Criminal Damage (under £500)[2]	55	67	51	41	44	44	32	22
Theft (retail under £200)	91	105	143	110	98	97	111	83
Breach of fireworks curfew	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Possession of category 4 firework	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sale of alcohol to drunken person	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Supply of alcohol to person under 18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trespass on a railway	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Throwing stones at a train / railway	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drunk in a highway	6	4	3	1	2	—	—	1
Consumption of alcohol in public place	1	1	3	7	7	7	4	6
Depositing and leaving litter	1	1	—	2	8	2	2	1
Consumption of alcohol my under 18 on licensed premises	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Allowing consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol for person under 18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	389	425	448	383	342	334	327	333

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[2] Includes offences of vandalism and graffiti but is not exclusive to those offences.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Table 4: Fixed Penalty Notices issued for littering:

	April 2006 to March 2007		April 2007 to March 2008	
Local authority	*Number of fixed penalties issued*	*Number of cases being prosecuted*	*Number of fixed penalties issued*	*Number of cases being*
Bedford DC	17	3	71	—
Mid Bedfordshire DC	9	—	n/a	n/a

Table 4. Fixed Penalty Notices issued for littering

	April 2006 to March 2007		*April 2007 to March 2008*	
Local authority	*Number of fixed penalties issued*	*Number of cases being prosecuted*	*Number of fixed penalties issued*	*Number of cases being*
South Bedfordshire BC	4	—	n/a	n/a

n/a - no data as of yet (5 November 2009)
Source:
Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

Children: Protection

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many care applications have been issued in *(a)* Doncaster, *(b)* Yorkshire and *(c)* England in (i) the last quarter for which figures are available and (ii) the equivalent quarter in the previous year. [298660]

Bridget Prentice: The number of applications for care orders in Doncaster, Yorkshire and England in the second quarter (April to June) of 2008 and the second quarter of 2009, the latest quarter for which statistics are currently available, are shown in the following table.

Care applications made in April to June of 2008 and April to June of 2009 in county courts and family proceedings courts (FPCs) in specified areas

	April to June 2008	*April to June 2009*
Doncaster	14	52
Yorkshire	216	443
England	2,006	4,140

Notes:
1. The data are taken from Her Majesty's Courts Service's (HMCS's) FamilyMan database and from monthly electronic returns sent in by those Family Proceedings Courts not using FamilyMan.
2. The figures reflect the number of applications counted by child. This means that where an application was made in respect of two children the application will be counted twice.
3. The figures exclude a small proportion of applications made to the High Court.
4. The figures for Yorkshire include applications made in the two HMCS areas of North and West Yorkshire and Humber and South Yorkshire.

Statistics on public law applications in the family courts of England and Wales are published on a quarterly basis by the Ministry of Justice in the statistical bulletin "Court Statistics Quarterly" and annually in the command paper "Judicial and Court Statistics". Statistics for Q3 (July-September) of 2009 are due to be published in the next edition of Court Statistics Quarterly on 15 December, and will be available from the Ministry of Justice website at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/courtstatisticsquarterly.htm

Community Orders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* breach rate of community sentences and *(b)* imprisonment rate of those who breached community sentences was in the latest period for which figures are available. [295815]

Maria Eagle: A full set of data to enable this question to be answered in terms of rates is not centrally available.

However, centrally held and published data shows that for those Community Orders which terminated in 2008, 30 per cent. terminated either for failure to comply with the order or for conviction of a further offence. Further published data show that there were 4,429 receptions into prison establishments in England and Wales in 2008 as a result of community sentence breaches.

This information can be found in tables 5.1 and 6.12 respectively of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2008, a copy of which has been placed in the House of Commons Library and which can also be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Crime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* convicted of and *(b)* cautioned in relation to a criminal offence in each year since 1989. [298075]

Claire Ward: Information showing the number of persons found guilty at all courts and cautioned in England and Wales from 1989 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table. Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Number of persons found guilty[1] at all courts and cautioned[2, 3, 4] for all offences, England and Wales, 1989 to 2007

	Found guilty	*Cautioned*
1989	1,512,106	238,031
1990	1,493,936	269,112
1991	1,485,725	278,765
1992	1,501,403	321,294
1993	1,411,205	311,299
1994	1,395,299	308,430
1995	1,343,227	291,242
1996	1,425,643	286,193
1997	1,374,515	282,087
1998	1,457,566	287,884
1999	1,398,271	266,126
2000	1,413,559	238,978
2001	1,339,729	229,858
2002	1,412,201	225,355
2003	1,481,221	241,803
2004	1,537,988	255,758
2005	1,475,252	298,945
2006	1,413,773	349,974
2007	1,407,965	362,889

[1] The found guilty statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[3] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Crimes Against Humanity: Prosecutions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the prosecution of *(a)* genocide and *(b)* war crimes in UK courts. [298213]

Claire Ward: We have received representations recently from a number of sources, including from non-governmental organisations, parliamentarians and members of the public, about genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

We have introduced new measures in the Coroners and Justice Bill to strengthen the law on these categories of crimes. Firstly, the provisions amend the International Criminal Court Act 2001 so as to cover the offences of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity to 1 January 1991 as far as the legal principles applicable to retrospection allow. Secondly, we are providing more certainty to the term "UK resident" in the 2001 Act by adding a list of specific categories of people who are to be treated as UK residents to the extent this would not otherwise be the case. These include those in custody and those in the UK applying for asylum (including failed asylum seekers). We have also included a non-exclusive list of factors that a court must have regard to in determining whether a person is a UK resident, including the purpose of being in the UK and family and other connections.

Debt Management Schemes

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the self regulation of debt management schemes in protecting those who are in financial difficulties; [299144]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effect of statutory regulation on debt management schemes as proposed in Option 3 of his Department's consultation published on 18 September 2009. [299151]

Bridget Prentice: The current economic downturn is causing real hardship for many hardworking consumers and the Government are determined to do all they can to help those in financial difficulties, while balancing this against creditors' rights to recover their debts wherever possible, both now and in the future.

The consultation paper "Debt Management Schemes—delivering effective and balanced solutions for debtors and creditors" was published on 18 September 2009 and looks at the current operation of the debt management market. It seeks views on whether any changes are needed in this area and, if so, what those changes should be.

It sets out three broad options: continue with the measures currently under way to raise awareness about current schemes and enforce existing rules with operators (Option 1); improve current schemes without regulation, possibly through the introduction of a protocol (Option 2); or implement the Lord Chancellor's powers to approve debt management schemes contained in Chapter 4 of Part 5 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 (Option 3).

An initial impact assessment was published alongside the consultation paper which considered the potential effectiveness of all of the options contained in the consultation paper.

The consultation paper and initial impact assessment can be accessed via the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/debt-management-schemes.htm

Defamation: Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps his Department has taken to seek to reduce the incidence of publication of defamatory material on the internet. [298216]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice is concerned to ensure that the law on defamation operates fairly and effectively in relation to publications on the internet.

We therefore published a consultation paper "Defamation and the Internet: the multiple publication rule" on 16 September 2009. This consultation seeks views on the effect of the multiple publication rule (which provides that each publication of defamatory material can form the basis of a new cause of action) in relation to online archives and will close on 16 December 2009.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department's information assurance procedures have been subject to an independent audit. [299380]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has subjected its information assurance procedures to an independent audit as mandated by the Cabinet Secretary's report into data handling processes across government and the Security Policy Framework.

The Ministry of Justice has used the Information Assurance Maturity Model, supported by CESG (the national technical authority for information assurance), to benchmark progress.

Departmental Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* energy rating and *(b)* energy band of each building occupied by his Department and its agencies was in each of the last five years. [299174]

Mr. Wills: Display Energy Certificates (DEC) were introduced in 2008. OGC publish central government departments' Display Energy Certificate (DEC) operational ratings on a building-by-building level twice a year. The most recent data for the Ministry of Justice, published on 31 July 2009, which includes DEC ratings up to and including 28 February 2009 and can be viewed at:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Pan_Govt_DEC_Feb09.xls

Data to October 2008 can be seen at:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Pan_Govt_DEC_Oct08.xls

Data relating to the month ending 30 September 2009 will be published on 18 December 2009.

Departmental Ethnic Minority Staff

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to increase numbers of applications from people from ethnic minorities for posts in his Department. [298215]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry is taking steps to increase the number of job applicants from ethnic minorities with the aim of realising a work force profile that is representative of the communities it serves. The activities associated with these steps are aimed at promoting the Ministry to, and attracting applications from, ethnic minority (BME) candidates. These include:

(a) Advertising all jobs through Jobcentre Plus and the Ministry's web site,

(b) Adverting vacancies in ethnic minority magazines and papers,

(c) Working in local employment partnerships in areas with a high proportion of people from ethnic minorities,

(d) Attending job fairs to promote the Ministry,

(e) Offering work experience opportunities and job shadowing opportunities throughout the Ministry,

(f) For senior civil servant campaigns, using head hunters which have a good track record of attracting a diverse range of applicants,

(g) Interaction with key community groups to inform and involve them in Criminal Justice System.

These activities have resulted in an increased level of applicants from BME backgrounds.

The Ministry has a policy of actively seeking ways of improving its attractiveness to job applicants from ethnic minority communities. Analysis of applications received for Ministry (excluding NOMS) recruitment campaigns in the last two months showed that, of the applicants that voluntarily disclosed their ethnic background, 56 per cent. of applications for jobs in London were from ethnic minorities, 38 per cent. for jobs in Birmingham and 20 per cent. for jobs in Leeds.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in his Department were employed on the management of freedom of information requests submitted to his Department in each year since 2005; and how much his Department spent on the management of such requests in each such year. [299123]

Mr. Wills: All freedom of information requests made to my Department are administered by the Data Access and Compliance Unit. Of the 27 staff in the Unit, 19 deal with the management of requests. The remainder are responsible for handling requests under the Data Protection Act 1998, or have managerial or administrative responsibilities.

The Data Access and Compliance Unit was formed in October 2008, and brought together the freedom of information and data protection compliance functions of the former Department of Constitutional Affairs and the National Offender Management Service. Consequently, staffing figures for preceding years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information as to my Department's expenditure on the management of freedom of information requests could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, an assessment of the cost of freedom of information within Government can be found in Frontier Economics' 2006 "Independent Review of the Freedom of Information Act", a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department was in the last 12 months. [299591]

Mr. Straw: No special advisers are provided with an allocated Government car and driver. As with all civil servants, special advisers may use an official car or taxi in properly defined circumstances. Details of such use are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Generally to work they walk, use public transport or scrounge a lift with me.

Departmental Postal Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of postal services for his Department and its agencies were provided by *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* other postal service providers (i) in 2007, (ii) in 2008, (iii) between 1 January 2009 and 1 July 2009 and (iv) after 1 July 2009. [298805]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice currently has no formal contracts for mail services. However, it has a number of local agreements with both Royal Mail and DX Ltd. We recognise that the absence of established contracts is not satisfactory and are in the process of completing a further competition against the Buying Solutions Postal Framework. It is expected that we will have a formal contract in place by January 2010.

Both Royal Mail and DX Ltd. provide postal and courier services to the Ministry of Justice and due to the structure of financial operating systems used it is not possible to separate expenditure for postal services.

Once formal contracts are established the Ministry of Justice will be able to begin compiling data on the provision of postal services.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department and its agencies on procurement under tender because the tender process was cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last 12 months. [299354]

Mr. Wills: No tenders were cancelled during the tender process and prior to the award of any contracts, so no costs were incurred by the Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessor spent on first class rail travel for officials in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [293336]

Mr. Straw: Officials who undertake any business-related rail travel do so in line the Ministry's travel and subsistence policies. Officials only undertake first class rail travel where there is a clear business justification to do so. It is Ministry policy to use standard class rail travel for business.

The Ministry's financial accounting systems do not differentiate between the types of rail travel. Therefore, it is not possible to provide the full details of first class rail expenditure for the whole of the period 2006 to 2009. To do so would entail a disproportionate cost.

Some information about expenditure is available from the Ministry's contracted supplier for rail travel covering the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), HM Courts Service and the Tribunal Service. For 2007-08 the expenditure was recorded as £4,121,537 and in 2008-09 it was £5,069,497. The 2008-09 expenditure was higher because staff in the Criminal Justice Group together with some staff in the NOMS previously worked in the Home Office and only began using the Ministry's travel supplier from November 2008.

The Ministry has this year negotiated with its unions changes to eligibility for first class rail travel. The effect of this will be to restrict further the use of first class rail travel to an exceptional basis.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of the statistical datasets collected by his Department are published. [299664]

Claire Ward: The Ministry of Justice publishes a range of statistics in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and overseen by the UK Statistical Authority. The vast majority of the Ministry of Justice's statistics are published using administrative data from the IT systems used operationally within the Ministry and its Agencies.

On 30 October 2009, the Head of Profession published the Ministry of Justice's Statement of Administrative Sources, a requirement of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-policy-procedures.htm

This shows the main sources of administrative data currently used to produce statistics by the Ministry of Justice. We will expand the Statement during December 2009 to show all administrative sources which are or could be used to produce Official Statistics.

All surveys run under the Code of Practice are published.

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department and its predecessor travelled by (i) car, (ii) rail and (iii) air on Government business in each year since 1997. [298542]

Mr. Straw: The requested information is not held in the administrative or finance systems of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) or its predecessor bodies. To obtain this information, the MOJ would need to collate the information manually for every part of the Ministry, at disproportionate cost.

Election Day: Weekend Voting Consultation

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish his response to the Election Day: Weekend Voting consultation. [299074]

Mr. Wills: The Government's response to the Election Day: Weekend Voting consultation will be published shortly in the context of the Government's wider thinking on promoting engagement in the electoral process. The responses to the consultation reveal that there is a wide range of views on whether weekend voting would have a positive impact on turnout.

Forced Marriage: Prosecutions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps are being taken to increase the number of forced marriage cases which are prosecuted. [298222]

Bridget Prentice: The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 was implemented in November 2008 providing greater protection for those at risk, preventing forced marriage and enabling courts to make Forced Marriage Protection Orders (FMPOs). These are civil provisions. We continue to work with agencies including the police and local authorities to ensure they are aware of the Act's provisions.

Since implementation of the Act on 25 November 2008 up to 31 October 2009 a total of 79 FMPOs have been made.

Garth Prison

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what his most recent assessment is of progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the recent report on HM Prison Garth; [299099]

(2) when he expects the National Offender Management Service to publish its response to the report on HM Prison Garth. [299100]

Maria Eagle: Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons published a report of her announced inspection of HMP Garth, carried out in March and April 2009, on 26 August. The National Offender Management Service will provide a detailed response, in the form of an action plan, to address each of the 122 recommendations and this will be submitted to Ministers and the chief inspector shortly. Progress has already been made in implementing a number of the recommendations.

Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in what *(a)* print and *(b)* on-line publications recruitment advertisements for ordinary members of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority have been placed; for what reasons those publications were chosen; and how much has been spent on the placing of such advertisements. [298167]

Mr. Straw: As set out in the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009, the appointment of members to IPSA is a matter for Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether *(a)* travel, *(b)* subsistence and *(c)* overnight accommodation expenses may be claimed by Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) members; and whether IPSA will be subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [298168]

Mr. Straw: The Parliamentary Standards Act states that IPSA is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

IPSA is an independent body and the appointment of members of IPSA is a matter for the Speaker. Until a suitable mechanism is set up for answering parliamentary questions on IPSA, the hon. Member may wish to contact IPSA directly.

Injunctions

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will direct HM Courts Service to record the number of injunctive orders granted by the courts which provide that the existence of the injunction may not be disclosed; and if he will make a statement. [298704]

Mr. Straw: I will assess whether the number of such injunctions should be recorded as part of my consideration of the outcome of senior officials' discussions with press representatives and the judiciary, to which I referred in my reply to my hon. Friend the Member for Newcastle-under-Lyme (Paul Farrelly) on 28 October, *Official Report*, column 422W. I will make a statement in due course.

Lands Tribunal

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* fee income and *(b)* full cost was of Lands Tribunal services relating to (i) rating appeals, (ii) land compensation references, (iii) restrictive covenants, (iv) appeals from leasehold valuation tribunals, (v) appeals from residential property tribunals, (vi) appeals against determinations of the value of land by HM Revenue and Customs, (vii) rights of light cases, (viii) references by consent, (ix) blight notices and objections and (x) compulsory purchases of property whose owner is unknown, absent or untraceable. [297989]

Bridget Prentice: The fee income generated by the Lands Tribunal for the financial years 2008-09 and 2007-08 was:

Lands Tribunal

	Income (£000)
2008-09	325
2007-08	375

The full cost associated with the provision of Lands Tribunal services for the financial years 2008-09 and 2007-08 was:

Lands Tribunal

£000

	Tribunal service costs	*MoJ corporate overhead*	*Total costs*
2008-09	1,652	71	1,723
2007-08	1,640	90	1,730

The Ministry of Justice does not hold information about the income generated from, and the cost of, specific jurisdictions dealt with by the Lands Tribunal. The costs are calculated as a whole. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost by checking individual records of these jurisdictions against the Ministry of Justice accounting system.

Location

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to respond to the Reunite report entitled Relocation which was funded by his Department and published in July 2009. [298619]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice has not issued a formal response to Reunite on their research project on 'relocation'. My officials have discussed next steps with Reunite. We are very grateful for the work Reunite has done to highlight the complexity of the issues in this area.

Magistrates Courts

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many jobs have been *(a)* lost and *(b)* created at magistrates courts as a result of restructuring in 2009-10. [297792]

Bridget Prentice: Magistrates courts are part of Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS). The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff in HMCS at 31 March 2009 was 19,100. This had reduced to 18,657 at end September 2009. During the year staff numbers will also fluctuate as individuals either leave, or are recruited, and it is not possible to say definitively how much of this overall reduction is directly a result of restructuring.

Magistrates Courts: Closures

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1373W, on magistrates courts: closures, how many magistrates' courts opened in each type of area in each year since 1997. [295942]

Mr. Straw: The following tables provide details of the magistrates courts opened (broken down into each type of area) since 1997. This substantial investment in replacing courthouses that have passed their working life demonstrates the Ministry of Justice's commitment to the courts and the communities that they serve. At the heart of this investment are the needs of court users.

Number of magistrates courts opened in each year since 1997[1]

	Rural 75	*Rural 50*	*Significant rural*	*Other urban*	*Large urban*	*Major urban*	*Total number of courts opened*
1997	0	1	0	0	0	3	4
1998	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2001	0	3	1	2	2	0	8
2002	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2003	[3]1	0	0	2	0	0	3
2004	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
2005	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
2007	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
2008	0	0	1	1	0	0	2

	Rural 80[2]	*Rural 50*	*Significant rural*	*Other urban*	*Large urban*	*Major urban*	*Total number of courts opened*
2009	[3]1	1	0	0	0	0	2

[1] The rural constituency classification (introduced by the Rural Evidence Research Centre on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in 2006) has been used to define whether court closures took place in rural/urban areas. The classification divides constituencies into the following six categories:

Major Urban: districts with either 100,000 people or 50 per cent. of their population in urban areas with a population of more than 750,000.

Large Urban: districts with either 50,000 people or 50 per cent. of their population in one of 17 urban areas with a population between 250,000 and 750,000.

Other Urban: districts with fewer than 37,000 people or less than 26 per cent. of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.

Significant Rural: districts with more than 37,000 people or more than 26 per cent. of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.

Rural-50: districts with at least 50 per cent. but less than 80 per cent. of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.

Rural 75: Over 75 per cent. of the population live in rural settlements (including 207 large market towns).

[2] The rural constituency classification (introduced by the Rural Evidence Research Centre on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) changed in April 2009 and one rural classification has changed from rural 75 to rural 80. Rural-80: districts with at least 80 per cent. of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.

[3] For Wales a Rural Authority is defined as any having a population density of below the Wales average of 140 persons per sq km.

Magistrates Courts: Haverfordwest

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff at Haverfordwest Magistrates Court have received notification in the last three months that their positions may be relocated. [297794]

Bridget Prentice: Magistrates courts enforcement staff located at Haverfordwest have been notified in recent months that the enforcement administration work is to be moved substantially to Port Talbot, where most such work within Wales is to be centralised in order to obtain economies of scale and a reduction of costs. Staff affected are being fully consulted, and at this stage they are being offered redeployment within the business or early departure on voluntary terms. Other administrative functions relating to magistrates courts and also of the county courts will continue to be undertaken at the Haverfordwest Law Courts.

Money for Ministers

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's guidance entitled Money for Ministers—An Introduction to Finance in the Ministry of Justice for Ministers. [298079]

Mr. Straw: The internal guidance document Money for Ministers—An Introduction to Finance in the Ministry of Justice for Ministers is currently scheduled for updating by the Ministry of Justice Corporate Finance team and will be placed in the Library upon completion, during December 2009.

National Offender Management Service: Disciplinary Proceedings

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2266W, on prisons: manpower, what the offences were for which the prison service staff were *(a)* dismissed and *(b)* otherwise disciplined. [296341]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is held centrally, but the level of detail required could be obtained only by conducting a manual check of over 1,600 disciplinary cases across both reporting systems at a disproportionate cost.

National Offender Management Service: Standards

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what efficiencies he expects the National Offender Management Service to achieve in the next three years. [297626]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service is planning to deliver £205 million of efficiencies in 2010-11. Planning for the next spending review period, that is [illegible]-12 to 2013-14, has not yet commenced.

Natio[illegible]robation Service for England and Wales: Finance

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the likely level of expenditure on the National Probation Service in the next five years. [298287]

Maria Eagle: The budget for the National Probation Service for the 2010-11 financial year is £870 million.

Planning for the next spending review period, that is 2011-12 to 2013-14, will be considered as part of the next comprehensive review.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the year-on-year change in expenditure on the Probation Service has been in each of the last 15 years. [298331]

Maria Eagle: Change in expenditure by local probation areas is detailed in the following table:

£ million

Financial year	*Expenditure*	*Year-on-year change*
2008-09 (provisional)	897	52
2007-08	845	38
2006-07	807	37
2005-06	770	83
2004-05	687	13
2003-04	674	69
2002-03	605	29
2001-02	576	71
2000-01	505	34
1999-2000	471	25
1998-99	446	2
1997-98	444	-4
1996-97	448	34
1995-96	414	-3
1994-95	417	49
1993-94	368	—

The figures for 2001-02 to 2007-08 are the net operating costs recorded in the annual consolidated accounts of local probation boards. The figure for 2008-09 is provisional as the boards' consolidated accounts have not yet been signed off, and is taken from the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) 2008-09 accounts, including probation trusts. Before 2001-02, local probation committees were financed partly by local government and the figures are based on the expenditure implied by the main grant cash limit plus an allowance for probation hostels; these figures include some estimates.

Following standard accounting practice, local boards' and trusts' pension contributions are not fully reflected in the figures. Expenditure on probation met centrally by the former National Probation Directorate and the National Offender Management Service is not included in local areas' expenditure.

Comparisons over time are difficult because of machinery of government changes and accounting methodology changes. After adjusting as much as possible for these factors and discounting for inflation, the real terms increase in expenditure on probation between 1996-97 and 2007-08 is about 70 per cent.

National Probation Service for England and Wales: Manpower

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff were employed in the Probation Service in each of the last 15 years. [298266]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the number of staff employed in the National Probation Service in each of the last 15 years.

	Total probation staff[1,2,3]	*Year on year growth (percentage)*	*Cumulative growth (percentage)*
1993	15,329	—	—
1994	15,531	1.3	—
1995	14,824	(4.6)	(3.3)
1996	14,388	(2.9)	(6.1)
1997	13,968	(2.9)	(8.9)
1998	13,806	(1.2)	(9.9)
1999	14,671	6.3	(4.3)
2000	15,240	3.9	(0.6)
2001	15,789	3.6	3.0
2002	16,668	5.6	8.7
2003	19,206	15.2	25.3
2004	19,565	1.9	27.6
2005	20,584	5.2	34.3
2006	21,372	3.8	39.4
2007	20,893	(2.2)	36.3
2008	20,857	(0.2)	36.1

[1] Figures for 1993-2007 are as at 31 December and are taken from the Home Office RDS Probation Statistics (1993-2003) and the Quarterly Workforce Information Reports produced by NOMS (2003-07).

[2] Figures for 2008 are as at 30 September.

[3] Figures for 2008 have been collected from Probation Areas/Trust via the HR Data Warehouse and are correct at publication. Areas/trusts have the ability to resubmit historical data which may result in occasional variation in subsequent reports.

Notes:

1. Total probation staff figures shown as full time equivalents.
2. Staff in post figures for 2009 are currently unavailable.

Probation has received significant increases in resources since this Government came to power in 1997. Our record shows that we take the probation service and its place in the Criminal Justice System very seriously. Total probation staffing (expressed as full time equivalents) was up from 13,968 in 1997 to 20,859 by September 2008 a 49.3 per cent. increase over the period.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with representatives of probation officers on staffing levels in the probation service. [298288]

Maria Eagle: I regularly meet officials from both NAPO and Unison and discuss a variety of issues of mutual concern and interest including staffing levels. I have also met with UNITE. Most recently on 29 October 2009, I met the NAPO chair and a delegation of trainee probation officers specifically to discuss staffing levels.

Offenders: Databases

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information on the dependent children of prisoners is held on the C-NOMIS database. [298708]

Maria Eagle: The C-NOMIS database, now known as Prison-NOMIS, holds information on the number of children of prisoners; it is not a mandatory entry, so information is incomplete.

Offensive Weapons: Sentencing

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have received the maximum sentence of four years custody for possession of a knife. [298076]

Claire Ward: Since 12 February 2007 the maximum custodial sentence for knife or offensive weapon possession offences has been four years. Therefore the answer gives data from March 2007 to June 2009 (the most recent published data from the Knife Crime Sentencing Quarterly brief). Further information is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/knife-crime-sentencing.htm

According to data recorded by the police on the Police National Computer, during the period March 2007 to June 2009, six offences (committed by six offenders) of possession of a knife or offensive weapon received a four year custodial sentence in England and Wales.

Maximum penalties are set at a level to provide for the most serious conceivable case of a particular offence and therefore are rarely imposed.

More custodial sentences are being given for knife and offensive weapon possession and those that are sent to jail are serving longer sentences. The proportion of immediate custodial sentences given for possessing a knife or offensive weapon increased from 17 per cent. to 19 per cent. of all sentences between the second quarter of 2008 compared with the same period in 2009. The average sentence length in the second quarter 2009 was 194 days which is a 42 per cent. increase from the same quarter in 2008.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Prison Accommodation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps his Department has taken to improve prison conditions. [298214]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service has a statutory duty to hold all prisoners in decent conditions.

We plan to increase the capacity of the prison estate to 96,000 places by 2014 through an extensive capacity programme. Since April 2007, 5,370 places have been delivered under the core capacity programme. The new buildings produced by the capacity programme are providing modern, fit for purpose, accommodation.

On 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 569, my right hon. friend, the Justice Secretary (Jack Straw) announced that, instead of building three 2,500 place prisons, we plan to build five 1,500 place prisons. The 7,500 places provided by these new prisons will allow for the closure of up to 5,000 of the most worn out, inefficient places. Initially we will build two new 1,500 place prisons and close 500 places. These measures support our aim, not only to provide additional capacity, but to modernise the estate and improve the quality of accommodation and other facilities.

For existing accommodation, we have a rolling programme of refurbishment and a reprioritised maintenance programme that allows the critical maintenance of the estate to be undertaken and general improvement to buildings and conditions, as funding permits. We take into consideration the recommendations made in Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons, Independent Monitoring Board, Measuring the Quality of Prison Life and Audit reports and take action where appropriate.

Prison Governors

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice at which prisons there has been *(a)* a change of governor and *(b)* the introduction of an acting governor for one month or more in each of the last five years; when each such change occurred; and what the names were of the governors involved in each change. [297706]

Maria Eagle: During the past five years all public sector prisons have had at least one change of governor in charge. It is the policy of the National Offender Management Service to move governors to different types of establishment to enhance their experience and for reasons of self development. When governing governors transfer, the gap between permanent postings will be kept to a minimum but given the significance of the role, an interim governor will always be appointed to cover such a gap.

While NOMS holds information on the length of tenure of current in charge governors, it does not hold information on any interim arrangements centrally and could obtain this only at a disproportionate cost.

Prison: Offences

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison staff have been suspended following allegations of the possession of *(a)* illegal drugs and *(b)* illicit mobile telephones or SIM cards in the last three years. [296028]

Mr. Straw: The disciplinary process in the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), including authority for suspending staff from duty, is devolved to a local level.

Public sector Prison Service establishments have only been required to notify headquarters of their intention to suspend a member of staff from duty since October 2007. According to the records held centrally, on 28 October 2009 a total of 48 members of staff were suspended from duty while some aspect of their conduct was under investigation. While the reasons for suspension are recorded centrally, this would be under a broad heading and not to the level of detail required to answer your specific question.

In order to provide a detailed response to the hon. and learned Member's question, NOMS would need to contact all public sector Prison Service establishments, ask them to provide details of all staff suspensions for the last three years and update the central records accordingly. To retrieve these data would incur disproportionate cost.

Prisoner Escapes

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have escaped while being transferred between prisons in each month of the last five years. [298454]

Maria Eagle: There have been two escapes on an inter prison transfer in the past five years. These occurred in October 2005 and March 2006.

Escapes have been falling for over a decade with the current low levels having been sustained for some years now. This is despite considerable increases in population over the same period. Rigorous investigations following any escape are designed to highlight any failings and ensure they are not repeated.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have *(a)* escaped from custody and *(b)* been returned to custody having escaped in the each month of the last five years. [298455]

Maria Eagle: Escapes from prison have been falling for over a decade and last year saw the lowest level of prison escapes since centralised recording of these incidents began. The data in the following table show the number of prisoners who have escaped from prisons in England and Wales between 1 April 2004 and 5 November 2009 and those who have been returned to custody. There have been 24 escapes in this period and 22 of these prisoners have been returned to custody.

Prisoners escaping from prison establishments between 1 April 2004 to 5 November 2009 by month of escape and showing numbers returned to custody

	Escapes from custody	*Returned to custody*
January 2004	0	0
February 2004	0	0
March 2004	0	0
April 2004	0	0
May 2004	1	1
June 2004	0	0
July 2004	0	0
August 2004	0	0
September 2004	2	2
October 2004	1	1
November 2004	1	1
December 2004	3	3
2004 total	8	8
January 2005	0	0
February 2005	2	2
March 2005	0	0
April 2005	0	0
May 2005	0	0
June 2005	0	0
July 2005	0	0
August 2005	1	1
September 2005	0	0
October 2005	0	0
November 2005	0	0
December 2005	0	0
2005 total	3	3
January 2006	2	2
February 2006	0	0
March 2006	0	0
April 2006	0	0
May 2006	0	0
June 2006	1	1
July 2006	0	0
August 2006	0	0
September 2006	1	1
October 2006	0	0
November 2006	0	0
December 2006	0	0
2006 total	4	4
January 2007	0	0
February 2007	0	0
March 2007	0	0
April 2007	0	0
May 2007	0	0
June 2007	0	0
July 2007	0	0
August 2007	1	1
September 2007	2	2
October 2007	0	0
November 2007	0	0
December 2007	0	0
2007 total	3	3
January 2008	0	0
February 2008	0	0
March 2008	1	0
April 2008	0	0
May 2008	0	0
June 2008	0	0
July 2008	0	0
August 2008	0	0
September 2008	0	0
October 2008	0	0
November 2008	0	0
December 2008	0	0
2008 total	1	0
January 2009	0	0
February 2009	0	0
March 2009	1	1
April 2009	0	0
May 2009	1	0
June 2009	0	0
July 2009	1	1
August 2009	0	0
September 2009	0	0
October 2009	0	0
2009 total	3	2

Data include key performance indicator escapes only and exclude incidents where prisoners are immediately recaptured (ie within 15 minutes of escaping).

Prisoners

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the size of the prison population; and what estimate he has made of the number of prison places in each of the next five years. [298484]

Mr. Straw: The prison population on 6 November was 84,522. The latest prison population projections were published on 28 August and are available on the Ministry of Justice website. The high, medium and low projected figures of the prison population for each of the next five years are shown in the following table (end of June figures):

	High	*Medium*	*Low*
2010	85,700	84,900	83,900
2011	88,600	86,900	84,900
2012	90,200	87,700	84,900
2013	91,100	87,600	84,000
2014	92,400	88,000	83,500
2015	93,900	88,700	83,300

Note:
Data rounded to the nearest 100.

The Ministry of Justice aims to increase capacity to 96,000 prison places net by 2014. We aim to deliver an additional 1,725 places in 2009. 3,000 places are currently planned for delivery in 2010. In addition we plan a further 1,605 place prison to be operational in 2012. The precise numbers and delivery timings will depend on construction schedules and prioritisation within the prison estate.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been released in error as a result of *(a)* mistaken identity and *(b)* other errors in each of the last 12 years. [287819][1]

Maria Eagle: Prison establishments are required to report known releases in error to the Intelligence and Operations Unit in National Offender Management Service Headquarters. However, the Incident Reporting System does not hold records of these events in a format which can be interrogated electronically to obtain the specific information requested. Information on releases in error prior to 2005 could be obtained only by examining all miscellaneous incident reports manually at disproportionate cost.

The available information is shown in the following table.

	Number of releases in error reported
2005	32
2006	36
2007	36
2008	58
2009 (to 30 September)	50

These incidents include three cases of mistaken identity; one in 2006 and two in 2008. In two cases the prisoner was returned to custody the same day and in the third he was returned within two weeks.

It should be noted that these figures have been obtained by a manual examination of paper records covering a variety of incident types and clearly only includes those errors that have been discovered. The figures are therefore subject to a margin of possible error.

The National Offender Management Service Agency is alert to the increase in 2008 and has taken action to tighten process and focus management attention on this area. Specifically:

All Release in Error incidents must now be reported immediately by telephone as a serious incident. Formal investigations are required in all cases and the learning from investigations has been acted upon.

Prison Governors and Regional Custody Managers have been required to review sentence calculation and discharge procedures and ensure additional managerial attention is given to this area.

Additional guidance has been given to prisons regarding fixed term recall arrangements.

More attention has been given to reporting this type of incident and it is possible that some of the apparent increase has been due to more consistent reporting.

Nevertheless, the number of releases in error remains very small as a percentage of total discharges (less than 0.05 per cent. in 2007, the last year for which discharge figures are currently available) and must be viewed in the context of increased prisoner movement to accommodate the rising population.

Prisoners' Transfers

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been transferred from prisons in England or Wales to Northern Ireland to serve out remaining sentences in each year since 2005. [298896]

Mr. Straw: The number of prisoners transferred from prisons in England and Wales to Northern Ireland since 2005 are as follows:

	Number
2005	16
2006	9
2007	13
2008	5
2009 (to 31 October)	11

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were transferred between prisons in Northern Ireland and *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Scotland in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [298600]

Mr. Straw: The transfer of prisoners between jurisdictions within the United Kingdom is governed by the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997. For the purposes of the Act England and Wales are the same jurisdiction and therefore transfers to and from Northern Ireland and Wales are not recorded separately. Transfers between Scotland and Northern Ireland are a matter for the Scottish Executive.

The number of transfers are as follows:

In 2007 one prisoner transferred from Northern Ireland to England and Wales and 13 prisoners transferred from England and Wales to Northern Ireland;

In 2008 five prisoners transferred from Northern Ireland to England and Wales and five prisoners transferred from England and Wales to Northern Ireland.

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[1] *[Official Report, 11 January 2010, Vol. 503, c. 3-4MC.]*

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers from England and Wales have been *(a)* transferred permanently to and *(b)* seconded to prisons in Northern Ireland in each year since 2001. [298898]

Maria Eagle: Records of the Northern Ireland Prison Service show that there have been two transfers between England and Wales and Northern Ireland since 2001.

There is no record of any prison officers currently being on secondment to Northern Ireland. Information on secondments that have now concluded is not available without incurring disproportionate cost.

Prisoners' Transfers: Isle of Wight

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of using *(a)* boats, *(b)* commercial flights and *(c)* private flights to transfer prisoners to prisons on the Isle of Wight in each of the last five years. [298082]

Mr. Straw: Prisoners are transferred to and from the Isle of Wight by scheduled car ferry sailings only. The data are not available for this request as the cost of transferring prisoners to the Isle of Wight is included in the general prisoner escort contracts and is not invoiced separately. The contracting out of this work has achieved efficiency savings estimated at £20 million in the first year.

Prisoners: Drugs

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2063W, on treatment programmes, what the disaggregated figures for *(a)* detoxification and *(b)* maintenance are for (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [297673]

Maria Eagle: The following table provides figures[1] for prisoners recorded as entering detoxification or maintenance.

[1] These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

	Prisoners entering	
	Detoxification	*Maintenance*
2007-08	46,291	12,518
2008-09	45,135	19,632

Prisoners: Sentencing

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners sentenced to a jail term of six months served *(a)* six months, *(b)* three months or less and *(c)* six weeks or less of that sentence in the last 12 months. [296382]

Maria Eagle: Automatic release at the half way point of sentence was introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 1991. Prisoners who are sentenced to six months therefore normally serve three months in prison. Adult prisoners sentenced to less than 12 months are not subject to supervision by the probation service on release from custody. However, they are 'at risk' of return to custody by the courts, to serve the unexpired portion of the sentence, if they commit an imprisonable offence before the expiry date of the original sentence. Young offenders (those under the age of 22 released from a term of detention in a YOI) are subject to a minimum of three months supervision. Juvenile prisoners sentenced to a Detention and Training Order are supervised as part of the conditions of these sentences.

The actual amount of time served in prison, following sentence, will depend on a number of factors, including time spent as a remand prisoner or credit for time spent on tagged bail if directed by the court, any added days and release on either Home Detention Curfew or End of Custody Licence.

For those prisoners discharged in 2008 having been sentenced to six months, the amount of time served is shown in the following table.

Time served	*Prisoners*
Six weeks or less	60
Over six weeks and up and including to three months	5,000
Over three months and less than six months	590
Six months	20
Total	5,700

Numbers below 1,000 have been rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers over 1,000 have been rounded to the nearest 100.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Discipline

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners have been involved in incidents of disorder of each type in each year since 1997; [298794]

(2) how many prisoners at each prison were found in possession of a sharp instrument in each year since 1997. [298801]

Maria Eagle: The following table gives the number of punishments given to prisoners in all prison establishments in England and Wales for offences committed in prison involving the reported categories of offence within the prison.

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*
Total	108,234	111,464	104,384	105,247	108,367	106,150
Violence	13,997	15,294	15,228	15,972	16,905	17,499
Escape/ abscond	1,232	962	786	754	634	565
Disobedience/ disrespect	41,476	44,146	40,102	41,800	44,444	45,410
Wilful damage	5,797	6,564	6,632	6,862	7,553	7,226

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*
Unauthorised transactions	35,876	34,909	31,074	29,414	27,807	23,407
Other offences	9,856	9,589	10,562	10,445	11,024	12,043

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Total	106,230	108,389	110,651	105,958	109,117	111,833
Violence	17,127	17,040	18,134	17,929	17,667	[illegible]788
Escape/ abscond	560	432	271	166	119	[illegible]
Disobedience/ disrespect	45,086	46,178	47,112	43,735	45,064	44,436
Wilful damage	7,230	7,270	7,521	7,701	7,536	8,054
Unauthorised transactions	24,400	26,722	27,377	26,682	28,858	30,427
Other offences	11,827	10,747	10,236	9,745	9,873	10,023

These figures have been taken from table 8.5 of the annual volumes of Prison Statistics in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2002 and tables 9.5 and 8.5 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics for the years between 2003 and 2008. Copies of these can be found in the House of Commons Library and from 2001 onwards at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

Further breakdowns by category of offence can be found within the tables quoted. However, the statistics do not identify possession of a sharp instrument and this information could not be obtained without involving disproportionate cost.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Drugs

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the recommendations of the Blakey Review into disrupting the supply of illegal drugs into prisons have been implemented fully; when he expects all recommendations to be fully implemented; and if he will make a statement. [294214]

Maria Eagle: Good progress has been made in implementing David Blakey's recommendations. The following recommendations have been fully implemented:

instructing every prison to nominate a senior manager responsible for delivering the local drug strategy at the prison (recommendation one);

publishing an updated good practice guide to assist prisons in tackling drug supply routes and a new guide on tackling mobile phones (recommendation two);

providing all prisons with a body orifice security scanner (BOSS chair) and hand held metal detectors, to detect internally concealed metallic items such as mobile phones (recommendation five);

strengthening the relationship with the Home Office Scientific Development Branch (recommendation eight); and

in the Good Practice Guide, placing more emphasis on working with others (recommendation nine).

In addition, work is in train:

to evaluate and roll-out static mobile phone blockers, subject to funding (recommendation four)—first phase in place, next phase to be completed by March 2010;

to determine whether search dogs are used effectively (recommendation six)—internal review completed, recommendations to be considered;

to encourage use of the Offender Management Act (recommendation seven)—ongoing, with key actions concluded by December 2009; and

to strengthen prison intelligence gathering (recommendation 10)—very much a continuous programme of work but with key elements in place by March 2010.

On recommendation three, rather than implement peer reviews as originally agreed, the Government have now decided to incorporate supply reduction and mandatory drug testing fully into the prisons audit process. This will provide a more robust framework to encourage good practice and will be in place by December 2009.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many instances of drug abuse were reported in each prison in England in the most recent period for which figures are available. [296430]

Maria Eagle: Mandatory drug testing (MDT) provides the best available measure of drug misuse in prisons. The following table provides the number of positive MDT tests, administered on both a random and targeted basis, at each prison during 2008-09.

These data have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing returns, the detail is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit. The number of positive tests does not equate to the number of prisoners who tested positive. It is possible that individual prisoners may test positive on more than one occasion.

Number of samples testing positive for each prison in England between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009

Prison	*Number of samples testing positive*
Acklington	208
Albany	21
Altcourse	432
Ashfield	40
Ashwell	49
Askham Grange	13
Aylesbury	79
Bedford	70
Belmarsh	71
Birmingham	214
Blantyre House	3
Blundeston	37
Brinsford	38
Bristol	114
Brixton	263
Bronzefield	22
Buckley Hall	136
Bullingdon	172
Bullwood Hall	1
Camp Hill	61
Canterbury	15
Castington	77
Channings Wood	81
Chelmsford	183
Coldingley	87
Cookham Wood	1

Number of samples testing positive for each prison in England between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009

Prison	*Number of samples testing positive*
Dartmoor	121
Deerbolt	18
Doncaster	250
Dorchester	34
Dovegate	176
Downview	85
Drake Hall	29
Durham	187
East Sutton Park	12
Eastwood Park	70
Edmonds Hill	34
Elmley	283
Erlestoke	96
Everthorpe	201
Exeter	49
Featherstone	151
Feltham	135
Ford	140
Forest Bank	587
Foston Hall	17
Frankland	65
Full Sutton	59
Garth	112
Gartree	22
Glen Parva	39
Gloucester	77
Grendon	7
Guys Marsh	121
Haverigg	246
Hewell	193
High Down	153
Highpoint	105
Hindley	38
Hollesley Bay	75
Holloway	61
Holme House	340
Hull	101
Huntercombe	10
Kennet	64
Kingston	15
Kirkham	163
Kirklevington	71
Lancaster	67
Lancaster Farms	14
Latchmere House	10
Leeds	141
Leicester	43
Lewes	242
Leyhill	88
Lincoln	131
Lindholme	180
Littlehey	24
Liverpool	308
Long Lartin	65
Low Newton	44
Lowdham Grange	173
Maidstone	119
Manchester	238
Moorland	63
Moorland Open	27
Morton Hall	7
Mount	213
New Hall	64
North Sea Camp	85
Northallerton	14
Norwich	46
Nottingham	150
Onley	42
Parkhurst	31
Pentonville	267
Peterborough Female	91
Peterborough Male	214
Portland	9
Preston	128
Ranby	239
Reading	20
Risley	171
Rochester	50
Rye Hill	56
Send	23
Shepton Mallet	5
Shrewsbury	116
Spring Hill	48
Stafford	163
Standford Hill	70
Stocken	51
Stoke Heath	29
Styal	150
Sudbury	196
Swaleside	127
Swinfen Hall	27
Thorn Cross	37
Verne	22
Wakefield	21
Wandsworth	226
Warren Hill	1
Wayland	66
Wealstun	135
Wellingborough	78
Werrington	2
Wetherby	11
Wharton	9
Whitemoor	54
Winchester	83
Wolds	109
Woodhill	267
Wormwood Scrubs	172
Wymott	178

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects the Patel Report on prison drug treatment to be published. [297367]

Maria Eagle: Professor Lord Kamlesh Patel was appointed to chair the Prison Drug Treatment Strategy Review Group (PDTSRG) in April 2008. The group first met in February 2009 and a two-year programme of work was agreed in April 2009. A report with recommendations will be produced by the end of March 2011. A decision has yet to be taken on publication of the final report.

Prisons: Inspections

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 53-4WS, on temporary transfer of prisoners prior to inspection, whether the cases have been referred to the police for investigation under Prison Service Order 1300; and if he will make a statement. [298916]

Mr. Straw: The disciplinary investigation found no evidence of any criminal offence which would have warranted referral to the police for investigation. Had it done so, the police would have been asked for advice, and possible action.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 53-54WS, on temporary transfer of prisoners prior to inspection, if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation into allegations of transferring vulnerable prisoners when the investigation is concluded; and if he will make a statement. [298921]

Mr. Straw: It is not Ministry of Justice policy for the contents of disciplinary investigations to be made public. It would therefore not be appropriate to place in the Library a report into disciplinary issues affecting individuals, even when the investigation and resulting disciplinary proceedings are complete.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 53-54WS, on temporary transfer of prisoners prior to inspection, (1) to whom the investigation into the allegations will report; who will decide on any disciplinary action to be taken if warranted; and if he will make a statement; [298923]

(2) for what reasons he did not decide to hold an independent inquiry into the allegations; and if he will make a statement. [298924]

Mr. Straw: The disciplinary investigation reported to the Director of Offender Management for London. The disciplinary process is currently overseen by the Chief Operating Officer of the National Offender Management Service.

Once the Chief Inspector of Prisons made the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) aware of allegations of temporary transfers, an internal investigation, conducted by a senior Governor from another NOMS geographical area, was commissioned. As the investigation was into matters for which operational experience was essential this was an appropriate course of action.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 53-54WS, on temporary transfer of prisoners prior to inspection, whether any Prison Service staff have been *(a)* suspended and *(b)* placed on detached or alternative duties whilst the disciplinary investigation is carried out; and if he will make a statement. [298935]

Mr. Straw: No members of staff have been suspended. One member of staff was placed on alternative duties, but has now resumed his substantive post.

Prisons: Manpower

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made as to the number of *(a)* former prison workers and *(b)* former prisoners who retained passes or keys to prison premises on leaving their employment or imprisonment in the last three years. [295762]

Maria Eagle: The issue of security keys in prisons is subject to careful monitoring with reconciliation and checks undertaken regularly. Stringent procedures are in place to ensure security keys are returned by all staff each time they leave prison establishments. Any failure to return security keys or taking them outside of the prison is considered a serious breach of security. This risk will be assessed and could result in a full or partial re-lock of the prison where it is felt that the key suite has been seriously compromised.

Measures for the reconciliation of security passes are described in Prison Service Order 1205. Staff are required to hand in their security passes to the identified pass co-ordinator on leaving the employment of the National Offender Management Service. The pass is then destroyed as security waste and the original pass application annotated accordingly. Data on the number of staff who failed to return their passes on leaving employment are not held centrally.

Prisoners are not issued with security keys or passes to prison premises. They may have access to courtesy locks on cells, but such keys do not form part of the security suite keys.

Prisons: Wales

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what tests were carried out on the soil of the former Dynamex site at Caernarfon to assess its suitability as a location for a prison; [293851]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 349W, on Friction Dynamex: asbestos, what his latest estimate is of the likely cost of asbestos remediation on the former Dynamex site in Caernarfon. [293852]

Maria Eagle: In May 2009 NOMS' consulting engineers, as part of the due diligence process, produced an environmental report on the former Dynamex site in Caernarfon in order to assess potential liabilities and constraints associated with ground contamination. The exercise included a review of existing reports which were based on previous tests on the soil. This evidence formed the basis of the assessment rather than carrying out further soil tests.

The site contains a number of contaminants, including asbestos. The due diligence report estimated the total cost of demolition and remediation so as to make the site suitable for prison development to be around £10 million. Of this sum, a substantial element is related to asbestos-related remediation.

Probation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what services probation staff are to be required to deliver in order to meet efficiency requirements. [297263]

Maria Eagle: In line with Government policy across the public sector, probation boards and trusts are expected to meet efficiency requirements in order to maximise the value for money that they provide. These are focused on reducing back office functions and management overheads and maintaining the priority given to resourcing front-line delivery. Boards and trusts are being supported by a national programme of specifying probation work and of benchmarking performance and cost to set clear standards for delivery and remove unjustified variation in costs. This programme, together with the intelligent use of probation work load data, enables local areas to manage the demands placed on individual staff more effectively.

The Specification, Benchmarking and Costing Programme in NOMS has already identified a number of operational efficiencies. One such example is the change in balance between standard and fast delivery reports provided to courts. This process has supported areas in prioritising the delivery of front-line services while maintaining the excellent standard of work probation staff do to protect the public and reduce reoffending.

Probation Officers

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many (1) qualified probation officers there were in *(a)* West Mercia and *(b)* England in each year since 1997; what the equivalent figures are expected to be in the next five years (i) in total and (ii) as a percentage of the total staff numbers in the Probation Service and National Offender Management Service; and if he will make a statement; [297597]

(2) staff who were not qualified probation officers were employed by the Probation Service and National Offender Management Service in *(a)* the West Mercia probation area and *(b)* England in each year since 1997; how many such staff are planned to be employed in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement; [297599]

(3) members of staff at management grades there were in the Probation Service and National Offender Management Service *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the West Mercia area in each year since 1997 (i) in total and (ii) as a percentage of the total number of staff; what the projected equivalent figures are for the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [297601]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is currently being collated and I hope to be in a position to write to the hon. Member by the end of November.

Responsibility for resourcing levels ultimately lies with each probation board or trust as they are the employers of probation staff. It is for them to take the action necessary at a local level to ensure they can deliver the required service within available resources.

The Probation Service's budget for 2010-11 has just been announced and once this money has been allocated to directors of offender management they will agree with each probation board and trust how that money is to be used.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* managerial staff, *(b)* qualified probation officers and *(c)* other staff there have been in the Probation Service in each of the last 10 years; [297628]

(2) what the ratio of qualified probation officers to offenders was in each probation area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [297598]

(3) what the ratio of qualified probation officers to non-qualified probation staff was *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the West Mercia area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [297600]

(4) how many *(a)* offenders under Probation Service supervision and *(b)* qualified probation officers there were (i) in England and Wales and (ii) in West Mercia (A) in each of the last 10 years and (B) in the latest period for which figures are available. [297295]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is currently being collated and I hope to be in a position to write to the hon. Member by the end of November.

Probation: Finance

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the proposed budget for West Mercia Probation Service is for 2010-11. [297268]

Maria Eagle: The total budget for the National Probation Service for 2010-11 financial year is £870 million and the 2010-11 budget for West Mercia will be announced before the end of the year.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the planned budget of the Probation Service is for each of the next three years; [297627]

(2) what his proposed budget for each region of the Probation Service is in each year to 2014-15. [297267]

Maria Eagle: No budgets are set outside of the current comprehensive spending review period. The 2010-11 budget for probation was announced on 29 October by the Secretary of State for Justice as £870 million. This shows an increase on indicative budgets issued for planning purposes of £26 million.

Probation: Manpower

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* managers, *(b)* qualified probation officers and *(c)* unqualified probation officers there are in the West Mercia Probation Service. [297264]

Maria Eagle: The current position for managers, qualified probation offices and unqualified probation offices in West Mercia are as follows:

153—Probation officers.

111—Unqualified probation officers, including probation service officers, community punishment officers and trainee probation officers.

68—Managers of all grades.

The Probation Service's budget for 2010-11 has just been announced and we expect this money to be used to support front-line services. The additional funding will be targeted to increase confidence in the community penalties and divert low-risk offenders from short-term custody. Directors of offender management will be required to negotiate specific service improvements with individual boards/trusts which will be incorporated in SLAs/contracts for 2010-11 to ensure that this additional funding is targeted on front line delivery. Detailed work will be undertaken by directors of offender management with areas/trusts to agree additional service delivery requirements and finalise individual allocations.

The overriding priority for the Probation Service is public protection which will not be put at risk. Probation areas are looking to make any required savings through back office and management rationalisation and improvements in efficiency and processes, protecting front-line delivery.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many qualified probation officers there are in the Probation Service. [297265]

Maria Eagle: On 30 September 2008 there were 7,884 full time equivalent (FTE) professionally qualified Probation Officers[1] up to middle manager level[2] in the Probation Service. In addition, there were also 944 FTE Trainee Probation Officers going through the qualification process at that time.

A significant proportion of staff above middle manager level[3] also hold a professional qualification having progressed through the service to senior manager level. However, collating and compiling this information would incur disproportionate costs as it would require all 42 Probation Areas/Trusts to be contacted individually to ask for this information.

[1] Includes Senior Probation Officers, Senior Practitioners, Probation Officers and Practice Development Assessors.

[2] Middle Managers are those who manage front-line operational staff.

[3] Chief Officer, Deputy Chief Officer, Assistant Chief Officer and Area/District Manager.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many full-time equivalent staff the Probation Service employed in each of the last five financial years; and what estimate he has made of the number of staff to be employed in each of the next three years. [297168]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the total number of staff in post in the probation service for 2004 to 2008.

Staff in post in the Probation Service 2004 to 2008[1, 2]

	NPS
2004	19,237
2005	19,755
2006	21,103
2007	21,246
2008	20,850

[1] Figures as at 31 March for each year.

[2] The figures on staff in post for 2004 to 2007 have been taken from the relevant quarterly Workforce Information Reports. The figure for 2008 has been taken from the HR Data Warehouse.

Note:

Staff in post figures shown as full-time equivalents.

Staff in post figures for 2009 are currently unavailable.

Over the five-year period, the overall staff in post in the Probation Service has increased by 8.4 per cent., with the number of qualified probation officers increasing by 4.4 per cent.

Responsibility for resourcing levels ultimately lies with each probation board or trust as they are the employers of probation staff. It is for them to take the action necessary at a local level to ensure they can deliver the required service within available resources.

The budget for 2010-11 has just been announced and once this money has been allocated directors of offender management will agree with each area how that money is to be used.

As no final decisions have been taken on budgets for subsequent years, it is not possible to provide information for 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Probation: National Offender Management Service

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what targets he has set for the *(a)* Probation Service and *(b)* National Offender Management Service for efficiency savings in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) each of the subsequent five years; and if he will make a statement. [297596]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) efficiency savings for the financial year 2009-10 are £171 million (near cash) and this includes efficiency savings for probation of £20 million (near cash).

The indicative efficiency savings for financial year 2010-11 for NOMS are £205 million (near cash) and this includes efficiency savings for probation of £24 million (near cash).

Targets for 2011-12 to 2013-14 will be considered as part of the next comprehensive review.

The NOMS planned savings form part of the £1 billion savings plan for the Ministry of Justice agreed in the comprehensive spending review 2007 settlement, which covered three years ending March 2011. NOMS and the MOJ remain absolutely committed to delivering the best services possible to our service users and the public. Ministers are determined to ensure savings are prudent, and wherever possible, release resources to the "frontline" operational delivery units.

Public Sector: Information

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria apply to public bodies in determining whether a document *(a)* has been identified as being available for re-use and *(b)* is available for re-use under the Re-use of Public Sector Information provisions. [299447]

Mr. Wills: Public sector bodies need to ascertain whether the documents fall within the scope of the Regulations on the Re-use of Public Sector Information (SI 2005/1515) taking into account whether: the document was supplied within the public sector organisation's public task; the document falls within the scope of the Regulations; the intellectual property rights rest with the public sector organisation; and whether it has already been identified as being available for re-use.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which Minister has responsibility for the *(a)* release and *(b)* re-use of public sector data. [299452]

Mr. Wills: The policy responsibility for public sector information and its re-use originally rested with the Minister for the Cabinet Office. The Ministry of Justice assumed responsibility for this policy in October 2006. I am responsible for this policy.

Re-offenders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders supervised under level 1 multi-agency public protection arrangements have reoffended in each of the last five years. [298083]

Mr. Straw: Data on the multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) are published in local Area MAPPA Annual Reports. The MAPPA Annual Reports have included in each of the last five years the number of offenders managed at levels 2 and 3 who have been charged with serious further offences—but not all offences. Areas have not so far been asked to report on charges of re-offending against MAPPA level 1 offenders, so the data requested are currently unavailable.

The purpose of the MAPPA Annual Report is to show what multi-agency intervention and resources bring to local public protection arrangements. The focus of the data, therefore, has been upon the offenders managed at level 2 and 3 rather than at level 1, where offenders are managed through ordinary agency management.

However, in order to provide data on the whole offender population eligible for multi-agency management and resources, since April 2009 all areas have been required to record instances of offenders managed at level 1 of MAPPA who are charged with serious further offences (as well as those managed at levels 2 and 3) with a view to inclusion in next year's annual reports.

Reparation by Offenders

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment has been made of the merits of applying community sentencing to people aged under 17 years. [298659]

Maria Eagle: Community sentences have played an integral part in the 23.6 per cent. fall in the frequency of juvenile reoffending rates between 2000 and 2007, from 151.4 offences per 100 offenders committed within one year, to 115.7 offences. We recognise that there is a lack of evidence of 'what works' with young people, which is why we have commissioned the Juvenile Cohort Study. This is designed to track some 10,000 young offenders from 30 different Youth Offending Teams over a period of approximately two years, between 2008 and 2010, to explore the experiences of different types of young offenders within the criminal justice system. The Juvenile Cohort Study will assess the impact of interventions and combination of interventions that are associated with a reduction in reoffending in different types of young offenders subject to the criminal justice system.

Supreme Court: Costs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse was of opening the Supreme Court. [298218]

Mr. Straw: The Supreme Court was delivered on time and within budget. Closure of the final accounts is under way and the full costs for the court will be announced in a written ministerial statement in due course.

Current estimated set-up costs (as announced in June 2007) are £58.9 million (made up of £36.7 million renovation costs which will be paid for by an annual lease charge of £2.1 million over 30 years and £22.2 million for repairs to external stonework, professional adviser fees, programme team costs, furniture, IT services and library costs).

In addition, the security provision at Middlesex Guildhall has been reassessed in line with other high-profile buildings in central London. While this increased overall construction costs, these remain within budget.

Supreme Court: Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many visitors the Supreme Court website has received in the last two months. [298211]

Mr. Straw: Since its launch just over two months ago on 21 August 2009, the website of the Supreme Court has had 88,140 visits. 72,382 of those visits have been by distinct parties.

Tax Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* corporate tax and *(b)* other tax cases were heard by the Tax Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal and its predecessor in each financial year since 1995-96. [298840]

Bridget Prentice: Neither the Ministry of Justice nor Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs holds information on the Tax Chamber and its predecessors prior to 2004-05.

The number of appeals disposed of at a hearing by the VAT and Duties Tribunal and the Special Commissioners of Income Tax from 2004-05 were:

	VAT and Duties		*Special Commissioners of Income Tax*	
Financial year	*Disposed at hearing*	*Disposed—other*	*Disposed at hearing*	*Disposed—other*
2004-05	728	2,246	120	108
2005-06	675	1,970	109	126
2006-07	763	3,151	126	223
2007-08	754	1,678	108	155
2008-09	1,105	2,270	125	153

Source:
TS Tax Business Plan

As part of the implementation of the First-tier Tribunal (Tax), data was collated and agreed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Tribunals Service for the year 2006-07. During that year, 9,545 cases were heard before the General Commissioners and five cases were held before the Section 706 Tribunals. No other data are available for years prior to April 2009.

Since April 2009, the Tax Chamber has not differentiated between direct and indirect tax. It has heard 779 appeals. The Ministry of Justice does not hold information on the specific type of appeal, e.g. corporation tax. This information could be provided only at a disproportionate cost by checking individual records of all appeals.

Television: Licensing

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in Leeds, North West constituency were prosecuted for not having a television licence in each of the last three years. [299641]

Claire Ward: Information showing the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for television licence evasion in the West York[illegible] police force area from 2005 to 2007 (latest available) [illegible] shown in the following table. Information is not available at constituency level; therefore police force area level data have been provided in lieu.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for television licence evasion, in West Yorkshire police force area, 2005 to 2007[1, 2]

Force—West Yorkshire	*Number*
2005	5,333
2006	5,293
2007	5,928

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Women's Prisons: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much on average it cost to maintain a place in a women's prison in each of the last three years. [295202]

Maria Eagle: The local establishments' average direct cost per place in women's prisons for the last three years is shown in the following table.

All female establishments

	Direct cost per place (£)
2006-07	36,009
2007-08	39,189
2008-09	37,701

In 2007-08 Cookham Wood was re-rolled from female to male which partly explains the higher cost in 2007-08 relative to the other two years.

The direct cost per place for 2008-09 is shown net of income from the Department of Health and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, whereas for earlier years it is gross. This partly explains the reduction in cost in 2008-09.

Traditionally HMPS annual accounts have published the cost per place using only costs met by establishments. For 2007-08 and 2008-09 a more comprehensive cost has been calculated which includes prison related costs met centrally by HMPS and NOMS, and these are shown in the following table.

All female establishments

	Total overall cost per place (£)
2007-08	53,333
2008/09	51,707

Year-on-year comparisons can be difficult to make, for example because of changes in accounting treatment or of prison categories.

The costs relate to establishments whose predominant category of prisoner is female. Income from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in respect of services recharged to the YJB is excluded.

The overall average costs comprise the public sector establishments' direct resource expenditure, increased by an apportionment of costs borne centrally by HMPS and the NOMS; and the resource expenditure of contracted-out prisons also increased by certain costs borne centrally. This involves some estimation. The figures do not include prisoners held in police and court cells under Operation Safeguard, nor expenditure met by other Departments (e.g. for health and education). The prisoner escort service is included.

Young Offenders

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what further steps he is taking to involve the Prince's Trust in working with young offenders in custody. [296045]

Maria Eagle: The Prince's Trust undertakes work with young socially excluded people.

They are currently actively engaged with 17 prisons either providing or supporting a range of activities including:

mentoring
  peer mentoring
  accredited qualifications in community skills, social and personal development
  business start up
  volunteering opportunities
  supporting transition between custody and community
  access to employment

"Working with the third sector to reduce re-offending Securing effective partnerships 2008-11", provides a framework for securing a continuation of engagement with such organisations and provides endorsement to the kinds of activities in which they are engaged.

Young Offenders: Finance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding the Government has provided to youth offending teams in each of the last five financial years. [297164]

Maria Eagle: Youth offending teams receive funding from a number of sources. The following table, taken from the forthcoming Youth Justice Board annual work load publication 2008-09, shows financial contributions made to youth offending teams (YOTs) via the YJB and other Government sources (including police, probation, social services and via local authorities) in the financial year 2008-09:

		£
2008-09	YJB	138,557,446
	Additional Government funding	222,813,499
	Total	361,370,945

The following tables, taken from the respective YJB annual work load publications, show financial contributions made to youth offending teams (YOTs) via the YJB and other Government sources by financial year:

		£
2007-08	YJB	126,762,030
	Additional Government funding	213,282,081
	Total	340,044,111

		£
2006-07	YJB	118,481,711
	Additional Government funding	203,088,565
	Total	321,570,276

		£
2005-06	YJB	98,333,746
	Additional Government funding	195,210,650
	Total	293,544,396

		£
2004-05	YJB	85,498,841
	Additional Government funding	182,322,955
	Total	267,821,796

Further details on the financial contributions can be found within the work load data publications available on the YJB Website

www.yjb.gov.uk

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Badman Review

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when the report of the Badman review of secondary education in Gloucestershire was made available to Gloucestershire local education authority. [298955]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Graham Badman's review of National Challenge progress in Gloucestershire was made available to Gloucestershire local authority on 2 October 2009. The Secretary of State on 12 October wrote to the local authority at Gloucestershire LA to confirm receipt of the report and formally request their response.

CAFCASS: Finance

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many temporary and agency workers the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service has employed since April 2008; and at what cost. [298689]

Dawn Primarolo: CAFCASS devolve responsibility for procuring temporary and agency staff to the budget holders in each of their 21 service areas. Although spend on temporary and agency staff is collated by CAFCASS centrally, the number of temporary and agency workers is not. The latest available set of full-year figures is from 2008/09 when £10.062 million was spent on self-employed contractors and agency practitioners and £3.930 million on temporary staff who had administrative roles.

Children: Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what sanctions are planned to apply to parents whose children breach an anti-social behaviour order. [298947]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

The Home Office is the lead Department for policy on anti-social behaviour orders. It is planned to introduce legislation to create mandatory parenting orders for parents of 10 to 15-year-olds who breach their anti-social behaviour orders as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Children: International Cooperation

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what initiatives his Department and its predecessors have promoted in support of Resolution 47, on International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), adopted by the 55th session of the UN General Assembly in 2001; [297851]

(2) what steps he plans to take to implement in schools the provisions of Resolution 47, on International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), adopted by the 55th session of the UN General Assembly in 2001, with particular reference to the promotion of education to foster a culture of peace and non-violence. [297852]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 5 November 2009]*: No actions have been taken specifically in response to this resolution but the Department has nevertheless implemented policies which are consistent with its content. The key themes of promoting a culture of mutual understanding, tolerance, active citizenship, human rights and the promotion of a culture of peace are integral to the work the Department and schools are doing within the curriculum as a whole and particularly on citizenship, community cohesion and sustainable development.

Children: Poverty

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what percentage of children have been living in households with below 60 per cent. of *(a)* contemporary and *(b)* 1998-99 median income in (i) the Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK in each year since 2005-06; [295098]

(2) how many children have been defined as living in relative poverty in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* the UK in each year since 2007. [298358]

Helen Goodman: I have been asked to reply.

Poverty statistics, published in the "Households Below Average Income" series only allow a breakdown of the overall number of people in relative poverty at Government Office Region level or for Inner or Outer London. Therefore, information for the Jarrow constituency or South Tyneside is not available.

The available information is in the following tables.

Number and percentage of children in the United Kingdom living in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, 2005/06 to 2007/08, before housing costs

Period	*Number (millions)*	*Percentage*
2005/06	2.8	22
2006/07	2.9	22
2007/08	2.9	23

Number and percentage of children in the North East living in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, 2005/06 - 2007/08, before housing costs

Period	*Number (millions)*	*Percentage*
2005/06 - 2007/08	0.1	28

Number and percentage of children in the United Kingdom living in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of 1998/99 median income, 2005/06 to 2007/08, before housing costs

Period	*Number (millions)*	*Percentage*
2005/06	1.6	13
2006/07	1.7	13
2007/08	1.7	13

Number and percentage of children in the North East living in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of 1998/99 median income, 2005/06 - 2007/08, Before housing costs

Period	*Number (millions)*	*Percentage*
2005/06 - 2007/08	0.1	14

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on households below average income, sourced from the Family Resources survey. The Family Resources survey is available in the Library.
2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for households below average income figures are single financial years. For the North East, three years of data have had to be combined due to small sample size.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. For the households below average income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) equalisation factors.
6. Numbers of children in low income have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand.
7. Proportions of children in low income have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
8. The 1998/99 median income threshold has been held constant in real terms before applying this to the 2007/08 households below average income data.

Children's Commissioner for England

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what official engagements the Children's Commissioner for England has undertaken since January 2008. [297300]

Dawn Primarolo: This is a matter for 11 Million (formerly the Office of the Children's Commissioner). Paul Evans, Director of Corporate Services at 11 Million, has written to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply will also be placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Paul Evans, dated 30 October 2009:

In response to the Parliamentary Question No: 297300, for Commons Written reply on Monday 02/11/2009: "to ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, what official engagements the Children's Commissioner for England has undertaken since January 2008".

I can advise the following:

Sir Al Aynsley-Green undertook 293 visits and speaking engagements between 1 January 2008-30 October 2009

Sir Al Aynsley-Green undertook 254 meetings with external stakeholders between 1 January 2008-30 October 2009.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Children's Commissioner for England: Publications

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* reports and *(b)* research (i) the Children's Commissioner for England and (ii) 11 Million have published in the last five years. [297301]

Dawn Primarolo: These are matters for 11 Million (formerly the Office of the Children's Commissioner). Paul Evans, Director of Corporate Services at 11 Million, has written to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply will also be placed in the House Libraries.

Class Sizes: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average class size for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Peterborough was on the latest date for which figures are available. [297826]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The requested information on average class sizes is published as part of the "Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics: January 2009" Statistical First Release (table 14a for primary schools and 14c for secondary schools) at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000843/index.shtml

Departmental Annual Reports

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to Table 8.4 of his Department's Annual Report 2009, pages 175-76, which programmes and allocations have been aggregated under the category *(a)* Safeguarding and *(b)* Special Educational Needs/Disabilities. [297024]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Detail on the constituent parts of safeguarding and special educational needs/disabilities expenditure, aggregated in DCSF's Departmental Annual Report 2009, are provided as follows for the year 2010-11.

Departmental allocation, 2010-11

	(£000)
(a) Safeguarding[1]	
Teenage Pregnancy/Substance Misuse	10,185
Safeguarding Children & Supporting Families Grant	1,130
Safeguarding—total	11,315
(b) Special Educational Needs (SEN)/Disabilities	
SEN & NMSS, including Safeguarding Advisers, Medical & Legal costs and Family Support (Contact)	251,980
Children in Care and SEN NMSS—capital	5,700
Special Educational Needs/Disabilities—total	257,680

[1] Please note that additional expenditure on these programmes occurs outside the departmental body as part of local authority spending.

Notes:

1. SEN = Special educational needs
2. NMSS = Non-maintained special schools
3. Safeguarding Advisers: Previously known as allegation management advisers (AMA).

Education: Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what resources per head were allocated to *(a)* the Young Offender Institution estate and *(b)* Reading Young Offender Institution for the education of prisoners in each of the last five years. [295938]

Mr. Coaker: The following table shows the calculated 'spend on education per bed place' in Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for each academic year, for which statistics are available. This includes learning delivered through the Offenders' Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) to young people aged 15-17 in Prison Service Young Offender Institutions in England. The figures do not include spend on learning delivered outside the scope of LSC funded provision which is not collected centrally; neither does it include funding for young adults aged 18-20 in YOIs, as this information is not easily disaggregated (it would require information to be requested and compiled by each LSC region). The average spend per place has been calculated using the figures for the number of 'beds' commissioned in the Prison Service juvenile YOI secure estate as at the end of March in each of the relevant years.

	£
Academic year	*Calculated spend per bed place*
2006/07	6,826
2007/08	7,556
2008/09	7,639

Prior to 2006/07 OLASS had not been rolled out nationally and therefore figures are not available.

The following table provides the total funding by the LSC for Reading Young Offender Institution, housing 18 to 20-year-olds, for the academic years for which figures are available. Education for those aged 18 and over in young adult custody is not compulsory and therefore allocations are not calculated on a 'per head' basis. These figures do not include spend on learning outside the scope of LSC funded provision. Those figures are not collected centrally.

	£
Academic year	*Total allocation*
2006/07	568,771
2007/08	580,146
2008/09	[1]629,443

[1] Includes £49,250 for the purchase of learning equipment.

Faith Schools: Finance

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what grants his Department has made to independent faith schools in the last 12 months. [297049]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 3 November 2009]*: There are more than 900 independent faith schools registered with the Department for Children, Schools and Families. A school can seek faith designation at any time, so an answer to this question could be provided only by examining the date at which individual schools sought designation, and the payments made after that time. Therefore this question could be answered only at disproportionate cost.

GCSE

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils *(a)* eligible and *(b)* ineligible for free school meals did not sit GCSE examinations in five or more subjects in (i) 2008, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2006 and (iv) 2005. [296435]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information requested is given in the following table:

Pupils at the end of key stage 4 who did not sit GCSE or equivalent examinations in five or more subjects

	FSM pupils		*Non-FSM pupils*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2005	10,950	13.8	23,829	4.8
2006	10,511	14.0	25,436	4.9
2007	10,569	13.8	26,305	5.0
2008	8,706	11.7	21,716	4.2

Note:
These figures have been derived from the National Pupil Database and cover pupils at the end of key stage 4 in maintained schools only.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in receipt of free school meals achieved five GCSEs, including a science, mathematics, English and history in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2003, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [296010]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 10 November 2009]:* This answer can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Schools: Cadets

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* comprehensive, *(b)* maintained and *(c)* independent schools had an operational combined cadet force in (i) 2005, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009. [296104]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I have been asked to reply.

The number of state and independent schools that had an operational combined cadet force in the years requested is shown in the table:

	State schools	*Independent schools*
2005	53	197
2007	60	200
2008	60	201
2009	59	201

These figures do not include membership in the community cadet forces. When these are taken in to consideration over 100,000 of the total of around 130,000 cadets, are children at state schools.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* comprehensive school and *(b)* maintained school pupils were members of their school's Combined Cadet Force in (i) 2005, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2008 and (iv) 2009. [296103]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I have been asked to reply.

Information is only available for state schools as a category. The number of state school pupils who were members of their school Combined Cadet Force, as at 1 April in the years requested, is as follows:

	Year	*Pupils*
(i)	2005	6,304
(ii)	2007	6,449
(iii)	2008	7,011
(iv)	2009	7,370

In addition, there are 25 known partnerships where independent schools with Combined Cadet Forces provide cadet places to neighbouring state schools; for these partnerships it is not possible to identify the numbers of state school cadets.

Schools: Curriculum

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will include lessons on body confidence in the national curriculum at key stages 2 and 3. [297060]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Personal, social, health and emotional (PSHE) education already includes the provision of information about how to lead healthy lifestyles, as well as body image and health issues and offers an opportunity for children and young people to develop confidence on these issues.

At key stage 2, the current non-statutory content includes learning about healthy lifestyles and how the body changes with the approach of puberty; key stage 3 covers learning about physical and emotional changes that take place at this time and the factors that contribute to an individual's personal wellbeing.

The programmes of study are written at a high level and set out only the broad topics that should be covered in PSHE. This therefore allows flexibility for schools on how they present learning in areas such as body confidence.

Guidance is to be produced in early 2010 to support schools teaching PSHE education, and individuals and organisations with a particular interest in body confidence will be consulted on how best this can be covered in the guidance.

Schools: Standards

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which *(a)* primary maintained, *(b)* secondary maintained and *(c)* special schools were classified by Ofsted as having (i) outstanding and (ii) inadequate leadership at their most recent inspection. [298772]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1730-1W, on special educational needs, how many pupils in each category were classified as gifted and talented. [256860]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The available information is shown in the table.

Academies: Number of pupils in national curriculum year groups 10 and 11 who had a statement of special educational needs, had unstatemented special educational needs and are gifted and talented[1, 2]*—position in January each year 2007 to 2009, England*

		Academies			
		Number of pupils who had a statement of special educational needs and who were gifted and talented		*Number of pupils who had unstatemented special educational needs and who were gifted and talented*	
	Number of schools	*Year group 10*	*Year group 11*	*Year group 10*	*Year group 11*
2007	46	10	[3]—	60	40
2008	83	10	10	220	190
2009	133	20	10	300	360

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[2] Information on gifted and talented status is available from 2007.
[3] Denotes figures of less than five.
Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many letters his Department has written to head teachers on special educational needs in the last 12 months; and if he will place a copy of each such letter in the Library. [258648]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department has sent two letters to schools specifically about special educational needs (SEN) over the past year: The Exchequer Secretary wrote to schools on 22 January 2009 about improving outcomes for children with SEN and tackling bullying; and the Department wrote to schools in a letter dated 27 January 2009 about children with SEN from service families. These letters have been placed in the House Libraries.

In addition, SEN and disability featured in the Secretary of State's annual 'back to school' letter to head teachers in September 2008. This letter emphasised the priority he attaches to narrowing the attainment gap in outcomes for disadvantaged children, including those with SEN.

Special Educational Needs: Pupil Exclusions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2117W, on special educational needs: pupil exclusions, how much of each category of expenditure detailed in the answer was incurred *(a)* in each local authority area and *(b)* in respect of each type of special educational need. [260486]

Mr. Coaker: It is assumed that the question asked relates to categories of exclusion and not categories of expenditure. On this basis the breakdown by local authority area for the earliest and latest years available—2003/04 and 2007/08—has been placed in the Libraries. Data for other years could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The breakdown by type of special educational need can be found in the reply given on 24 March, *Official Report*, column 366W.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to answer question *(a)* 256860, *(b)* 258648 and *(c)* 260486 on special educational needs, tabled on 26 February, 20 February and 10 February 2009 respectively. [294221]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The PQs have been replied to today. I apologise for the lateness of these PQs. The reason for the delay was due to an administrative error.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the level of carbon dioxide emissions per head is for each Government office region in each of the last five years. [297847]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 5 November 2009]:* Data for per capita emissions of carbon dioxide for each Government office region from 2005 to 2007 inclusive are set out in the following table. DECC does not hold ONS accredited data on regional per capita emissions before 2005, and 2008 data is not yet available.

Region	*Per capita CO_2 emissions (t)*
North East	
2005	13.1
2006	12.8
2007	12.6
North West	
2005	8.7
2006	8.5
2007	8.4
Yorkshire and Humber	
2005	10.2
2006	10.2
2007	9.9
East Midlands	
2005	9.3
2006	9.2
2007	8.9
West Midlands	
2005	8.3
2006	8.3
2007	8.2
East of England	
2005	8.1
2006	8.0
2007	7.8
Greater London	
2005	6.1
2006	6.2
2007	6.0
South East	
2005	8.1
2006	8.0
2007	7.8
South West	
2005	8.2
2006	8.1
2007	7.9

Climate Change

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential of use of biochar to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and if he will make a statement. [298407]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* The Royal Society published a report on Geo-engineering in September 2009 which concluded that techniques such as biochar may be useful contributors to reducing greenhouse gases on a small scale, although the circumstances under which they are economically viable and socially and ecologically sustainable remain to be determined.

A review was commissioned recently by DEFRA and DECC to assess the potential benefits, costs and issues surrounding the addition of biochar to soil. The review will help us understand the potential use of biochar to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We expect that the review will be completed by the end of December 2009.

Climate Change: International Co-operation

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for which aspects of the Government's contribution to commitments agreed at the International Monetary Fund-World Bank annual meetings in Istanbul in 2009 his Department will be responsible. [297108]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* There were no specific commitments agreed for which the Department will be responsible. The IMF-World Bank communiqué reiterated support for the World Bank Group's efforts to tackle long-term development challenges, including climate change, in line with its comparative advantage. We welcome the engagement of all international financial institutions in addressing the challenge and opportunity of low carbon climate resilient growth, and encourage them to make their existing investments climate-smart.

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has made on ensuring that a forthcoming climate change agreement is consistent with the Government's commitment to international development. [297983]

Joan Ruddock: A comprehensive, fair and equitable deal at Copenhagen that tackles climate change effectively has the potential to be the most important development agreement of the decade. An agreement that puts the needs of developing countries and poor people at its heart is essential for sustainable growth and poverty reduction. These issues are central to all our international discussions on the shape of a Copenhagen deal.

Departmental Hotels

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on hotel bills in 2008-09. [299150]

Joan Ruddock: For the period in question our financial records show claims for a total of approximately £271,000 on UK and overseas hotel accommodation.

Energy: Government Departments

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to take steps to encourage voltage optimisation on the Government estate. [295278]

Joan Ruddock: Steps are already being taken to encourage uptake of voltage reduction technologies (including voltage optimisation) across the Government estate. Budget 2009 announced over £50 million in interest-free loans for public sector organisations including central Government, to invest in effective energy efficiency technologies including voltage reduction technologies. Some of this funding has already been allocated to voltage reduction technologies on the Government estate.

In addition, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) is working through the Pan Government Energy Project to promote collaborative procurement opportunities and funding streams for all public sector organisations that will contribute to energy demand reduction, including the development of a framework contract voltage reduction technologies.

Energy: Housing

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the average capital cost of supplying a domestic property with energy generated by *(a)* wind power and *(b)* solar power. [297155]

Joan Ruddock: The Government's Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP), with a £131 million budget, currently supports householders to install microgeneration technologies including micro wind and solar PV. The average installed costs of supplying a domestic property with energy generated by micro wind and solar PV through the LCBP are as follows:

Solar power

Average total cost of system ex VAT over the life of the LCBP is £12,900.

The current cost/kWp that we are seeing through the programme is £6,058.

Wind

Average total cost of system ex VAT over the life of the LCBP is £12,370.

The current cost/kWp that we are seeing through the programme is £3,075.

Fuel Poverty: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of households in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley in fuel poverty. [298114]

Mr. Kidney: The most recently available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2006, and shows that there were around 3,200 fuel-poor households in the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and around 8,100 fuel-poor households in Bexley local authority.

Green Communities Challenge

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to implement a green communities challenge; when it will be introduced; and how it will operate. [illegible]

Joan Ruddock: The Low Carbon Communities Challenge is a two-year programme to provide financial and advisory support to 20 "test-bed" communities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland that are seeking to cut carbon emissions. It does not cover communities in Scotland. The challenge was launched on 28 September this year.

The 20 successful communities will each receive support to pay for real measures selected by the local residents themselves. These could range from a local biomass plant to retrofitting homes to electric car charge points. In return for technical and financial assistance, people living and working in the area will work alongside government and contribute to finding low carbon solutions from which the whole country will benefit.

The following steps will occur: Applications for the Challenge will be received by 27 November for phase 1 applicants (applying for funding in 2009-10), and 30 December for phase 2 applicants (applying for funding in 2010-11). The final decision on the selection of communities will be made in January 2010. Phase 1 applicants will be notified at this point on the allocation of funding. Phase 2 applicants will be allocated funding during the financial year as they work up their spending plans.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many former mine workers in *(a)* Don Valley, *(b)* Doncaster and *(c)* South Yorkshire have received payments under the coal miners compensation scheme; and how much has been paid out to former miners in each of those areas. [298635]

Mr. Kidney: The number of former miners in Don Valley, Doncaster and South Yorkshire who have received payments under Coal Health Compensation schemes for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and vibration white finger (VWF) and the amount paid in each of those areas as at 1 November 2009 is shown in the following table:

	Number of claims			*Damages paid (£)*		
Area	*COPD*	*VWF*	*Other*	*COPD*	*VWF*	*Other*
Don Valley	8,108	3,480	1,452	34,481,194	39,966,822	1,520,558
Doncaster	34,859	14,898	6,035	149,029,789	174,925,222	[illegible]
South Yorkshire	54,702	22,076	9,284	223,537,989	248,068,576	9,809,180

Total claims and damages paid (less Compensation Recovery Unit) to miners in the Don Valley, Doncaster and South Yorkshire constituencies as defined as follows:

Don Valley

(Don Valley)

Doncaster

(Don Valley, Doncaster Central, Doncaster North)

South Yorkshire

(Don Valley, Doncaster Central, Doncaster North, Barnsley East and Mexborough, Wentworth, Rotherham, Rother Valley, Sheffield Hillsborough, Sheffield Heeley, Sheffield Hallam, Sheffield Brightside, Sheffield Attercliffe, Sheffield Central).

Nuclear Power Stations

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of total national energy output his Department expects new nuclear plants to generate in the next 20 years. [illegible]

Mr. Kidney: As set out in the Nuclear White Paper, the Government are taking active steps to establish and cement the right policy framework and create the right conditions in the UK for investment in new nuclear power stations. The Office for Nuclear Development is acting to enable investment in the UK from the earliest possible date.

The Government have set neither a target nor a cap on the amount of nuclear power that could come forward. Instead, the approach has been to remove the barriers to investment in new nuclear power, and allow energy companies to come forward with projects if they consider it in their interests to do so. The action taken by Government so far has resulted in real interest in new nuclear in the UK, with energy companies announcing plans to build up to 16 GW of new nuclear capacity.

The programme of facilitative actions set out in the White Paper should, subject to regulatory approvals, enable companies to begin operation of new nuclear power stations around 2017 or 2018.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much of the total national energy output nuclear power stations contributed in the latest period for which figures are available. [illegible]

Mr. Kidney: In the latest full year for which data are available (2008) nuclear power stations provided 13 per cent. of total UK electricity generation. We have also published data up to quarter 2 2009. Quarterly data can be found in the following table. Nuclear generation was slightly lower than usual in 2008 due to maintenance.

Proportion of UK electricity generated by nuclear power stations

Period	*Electricity generated by nuclear (percentage)*
Total 2008	13
Quarter 1 2008	13
Quarter 2 2008	14
Quarter 3 2008	14
Quarter 4 2008	13
Quarter 1 2009	16
Quarter 2 2009	22

Renewable Energy: Developing Countries

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to ensure effective technology transfer to enable *(a)* Bangladesh, *(b)* Ethiopia, *(c)* India, *(d)* Kenya and *(e)* Nepal to harness renewable energy and combat climate change. [297915]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 5 November 2009]:* The Government are pushing for an ambitious, effective and fair agreement at the 15th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Copenhagen, that will drive the development of climate technologies and their deployment in developing countries, including Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Kenya and Nepal. At the recent Environment Council, the UK and our European partners highlighted our desire for a

"Global partnership to drive transformational low carbon climate-friendly technologies".

Warm Front Scheme

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the implementation of the Warm Front scheme in the North West; [297947]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on the length of time it takes for Warm Front grant applications to be processed. [297949]

Mr. Kidney: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues, officials and a range of stakeholders about action to tackle fuel poverty, including discussions about the implementation and performance of the Warm Front scheme across England.

On 29 October, I chaired an inter-ministerial group on fuel poverty during which the Warm Front Scheme and its delivery was discussed.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission: Homes and Communities Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what services the Audit Commission has provided for the *(a)* Homes and Communities Agency and *(b)* Tenant Services Authority in the last 12 months; and how much was paid to the Audit Commission in respect of each service. [299205]

John Healey: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 11 November 2009:

Parliamentary Question: what services the Audit Commission has provided for the (a) Homes and Communities Agency and (b) Tenant Services Authority in the last 12 months; and how much was paid to the Audit Commission in respect of each service.

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

(a) The Audit Commission undertakes work for the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) on the Housing Market Renewal (HMR) programme. There are a number of aspects to the Audit Commission's role in the HMR programme. The Commission undertakes periodic strategic reviews and scrutiny assessments, regular performance monitoring visits, captures and disseminates learning and good practice and produces periodic reports on related issues.

Following the creation of the HCA on 1 December 2008, responsibility for the HMR programme was transferred from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to the HCA. The financial arrangements for undertaking the work remained with DCLG until the start of the 2009/10 financial year. During 2008/09, the Audit Commission was paid £395,000 by DCLG for this work. Up to the end of September 2009, the Audit Commission has been paid £202,500 by the HCA and will receive a further £202,500 for the period from October 2009 to March 2010.

(b) The Audit Commission undertakes work for the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) on the inspection of housing associations. Prior to the creation of the TSA on 1 December 2008, this work was undertaken for DGLG in conjunction with the Housing Corporation. DCLG continued to fund the inspection programme for the remainder of the 2008/09 financial year. During 2008/09, the Audit Commission was paid £1,800,000 by DCLG to undertake housing association inspections.

Since 1 April 2009, the Audit Commission has inspected housing associations for the TSA. Up to the end of September 2009, the Audit Commission has been paid £900,000 by the TSA for this work and will receive a further £900,000 for the period from October 2009 to March 2010.

The Audit Commission is currently undertaking a national study on the satisfaction of tenants of councils and registered social landlords. This work is jointly funded by the Audit Commission and the TSA, with the TSA contributing £35,000.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Bed and Breakfast Accommodation: Children

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeless children aged 16 years and under were accommodated in bed and breakfast accommodation provided by local authorities for more than six weeks in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [297692]

Mr. Ian Austin: Children's Services authorities have responsibility for meeting the needs of homeless children under 16 if they are a "child in need". Children's Services authorities and housing authorities both have certain obligations towards homeless 16-year-old children. Under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) housing authorities must secure accommodation for applicants who are eligible for assistance, homeless through no fault of their own and who have a priority need for accommodation. Families with dependent children aged 16 have a priority need for accommodation.

Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level. Data collected include the number of applicants accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Information on the number of applicant households with dependent children (and expected children) in bed and breakfast hotels and other privately managed shared facility annexes ("B&B style temporary accommodation"), who had been resident there for six weeks or more, is reported quarterly by local authorities as at the last day of each quarter. This figure will include applicant households with children under 16-years-old or dependent children aged 16 to 18, although the number of such dependent children within these households cannot be identified.

The number of applicant households with dependent children (or expected children) in B&B style temporary accommodation in England, who had been resident in such accommodation for six weeks or more at the end of March in each of the last seven years, is shown in the following table:

At the end of financial year (31 March) 2008-09	Number of households with dependent children in B&B temporary accommodation for six weeks or more
2008-09	70
2007-08	160
2006-07	80
2005-06	110
2004-05	110
2003-04	30
2002-03	2,910

Prior to financial year 2002-03 this information was not held centrally.

The number of households headed by an applicant aged 16 or 17 in B&B style temporary accommodation in England, who had been resident in such accommodation for six weeks or more at the end of March in each of the last two years, is shown in the following table. It is not possible to separately identify those households headed by a 16-year-old applicant.

At the end of financial year (31 March)	Number of 16 to 17-year-old households in B&B temporary accommodation for six weeks or more
2008-09	120
2007-08	250

Prior to financial year 2007-08 this information was not held centrally.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) collect information from Children's Services authorities on looked after children. It is not possible to identify, of these children, how many of them had previously been homeless and as a result are 'looked after' by the Children's Services.

Business Improvement Districts

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether an improvement in the environment due to expenditure and activity undertaken by a business improvement district is deemed by the Valuation Office Agency to be a material change of circumstance when assessing the rateable values of the hereditaments within the improvement district. [294102]

Barbara Follett: Physical improvements to the environment due to expenditure and activity undertaken by a business improvement district may, depending on the extent, nature and circumstances of the individual area, constitute a material change of circumstance, affecting rateable values of the hereditaments.

Community Relations: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 479W, on community relations, if he will provide a breakdown of the £8.5 million his Department spent on Prevent-related projects in 2008-09. [298517]

Mr. Malik *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* The information requested has been deposited in the Library.

Council Housing: Antisocial Behaviour

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on their powers to *(a)* evict unruly tenants and *(b)* take action against tenants (i) whose refuse causes a hazard to neighbours, (ii) who frequently burn rubbish in their gardens and (iii) who have dogs which are a nuisance to neighbours. [299337]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government have equipped local authorities and social landlords with a range of effective powers to deal robustly with antisocial tenants and has provided them with extensive advice on their use. The Respect website:

http://www.asb.homeoffice.gov.uk

provides a regularly updated resource for agencies tackling antisocial behaviour and includes a comprehensive guide to antisocial behaviour tools and powers published last year:

http://www.asb.homeoffice.gov.uk/members/article.aspx?id:=12204

Through both the 'Together' and subsequent 'Respect' campaigns we organised a series of events to inform local authorities and social landlords about, and encourage them to use, the tools and powers available to them to tackle antisocial behaviour.

Council Housing: Standards

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what decent homes standard applies to local authority tenants. [299367]

Mr. Ian Austin: The decent homes standard applies to all social rented housing. Information on the standard can be found in Sections 4 and 5 of "A Decent Homes: definition and guidance for implementation, June 2006". This is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/decenthome

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many first-class flights were taken by each Minister in his Department in 2008-09; and what the *(a)* origin, *(b)* destination and *(c)* cost was of each such flight. [298757]

Barbara Follett: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the Cabinet Office publishes an annual list of overseas travel over £500 undertaken by Ministers. The list for 2008-09 can be accessed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/226022/travel_2008_2009.pdf

Travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in his Department were employed on the management of freedom of information requests submitted to his Department in each year since 2005; and how much his Department spent on the management of such requests in each such year. [299137]

Barbara Follett: During 2005, 2006 and 2007 six staff were employed in the central Freedom of Information Advice Team that manages FOI requests in CLG. This reduced to five staff in 2008 and 2009. This represented a staff resource expenditure of £224,000. in 2006-07, £237,000 in 2007-08, £234,000 in 2008-09 and a projected figure of £231,000 in 2009-10. Comparable cost figures are not available for 2005-06.

These figures only cover the management of the service and the response to general questions which can be answered by a central team—that is staff whose involvement in FOI requests accounts for more than half of their time. The detailed policy specific FOIs are generally answered by policy officials within the policy teams but the time spent by them on this activity is not separately measured, and nor is the cost of lawyers' time involved in advising on handling of FOI requests.

Departmental Manpower

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* salary band and *(b)* area of responsibility is of each of the full-time equivalent staff members employed in his Department's Housing Directorate. [299232]

John Healey: The following table shows the number of full-time equivalent staff by salary band for each of the Directorates within our Housing and Planning Directorate. The information was taken from our financial staff action plans as at 30 October 2009.

All civil servants are employed to provide impartial advice to ministers and are engaged on fixed-term, permanent or other recognised contractual terms.

Table showing numbers of full-time equivalent staff in the Housing and Planning Group as at 31 August 2009

Grade	*Director General's Office*	*Housing Delivery and Homelessness*	*Housing Markets*	*Housing Management and Support*	*Group total*
SCS3 (DG)	1.0	—	—	—	1.0
SCS2 (Dir)	—	1.0	2.0	1.0	4.0
SCS1 (DD)	—	4.9	4.0	3.3	12.2
PB7 (G6)	—	5.8	6.0	2.0	13.8
PB6 (G7)	—	25.6	18.7	23.8	68.1
PB5 (SEO)	—	19.0	9.8	13.0	41.8
PB4.3 (HEOD)	—	3.0	4.0	—	7.0
PB4 (HEO)	1.0	18.6	13.6	33.5	66.7
PB3 (EO)	0.8	15.8	10.0	35.3	61.9
PS	—	—	—	—	—
PB2 (AO)	1.0	3.0	3.0	56.5	63.5
PB1 (AA)	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3.8	96.7	71.1	168.4	340.0

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department was in the last 12 months. [299583]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Tooting (Mr. Khan) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1492W.

Departmental Postal Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of postal services for his Department and its agencies were provided by *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* other postal service providers (i) in 2007, (ii) in 2008, (iii) between 1 January 2009 and 1 July 2009 and (iv) after 1 July 2009. [298804]

Barbara Follett: The percentage of postal services for the Department for Communities and Local Government provided by *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* other postal service providers (i) in 2007, (ii) in 2008, (iii) between 1 January 2009 and 1 July 2009 and (iv) after 1 July 2009 is:

Percentage

	January to December 2007	*January to December 2008*	*1 January to 30 June 2009*	*1 July to 31 October 2009*
CLG (C)				
Royal mail	99	99	99	99
Other	1	1	1	1
Fire Service College				
Royal Mail	100	100	100	100
Other	—	—	—	—
Planning Inspectorate				
Royal Mail	49	67	60	83
Other	51	33	40	17
QEII Conference Centre				
Royal Mail	100	100	100	100
Other	—	—	—	—

Departmental Recruitment

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 1 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1834W, on departmental recruitment (1) what additional expertise and capacity was required for the two policy adviser roles that could not be delivered through *(a)* offering the job to existing departmental staff and *(b)* advertising the job publicly; [292843]

(2) whether the two policy adviser roles were open to applications from existing civil servants. [292844]

Barbara Follett: The role of policy adviser, local government restructuring, was offered to existing departmental staff before being filled by a fixed-term appointee. The appointee was selected as the strongest candidate from a group of people sifted by a recruitment agency and interviewed by departmental managers.

The role of policy adviser, strategy and performance, was filled by a fixed-term appointee in order to provide additional policy advice and flexible support to Ministers across the range of departmental business. The appointment was made upon appraisal of the individual's skills and experience which was viewed as meeting the job criteria.

There is no automatic requirement to advertise fixed-term appointments publicly. This is in line with the civil service recruitment principles, which allow for staff to be brought in temporarily as an exception to 'fair and open competition' in order to supplement the skills and experience available to the Department.

Homes and Communities Agency: Security

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) on security for *(a)* undeveloped, *(b)* unsold and *(c)* other HCA-owned sites in each region in each of the last six months for which figures are available. [298204]

John Healey: The following table sets out net expenditure incurred for security by the HCA for each region for the six months from April to September. These are the latest figures that are available. All land owned by the HCA is unsold and undeveloped so it is not possible to provide a breakdown of costs in the way asked.

£

Region	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*
East	2,377	0	-240	60,872	75,448	19,974
East Midlands	1,500	0	450	150	5,663	0
London	93,264	140,209	134,693	141,714	58,091	93,173
Milton Keynes	21,385	14,526	14,306	15,002	25,463	14,306
North East	1,468	35,901	38,203	39,591	30,767	42,810
North West	16,149	34,312	24,105	23,798	66,619	11,394
South East[1]	1,785	14,067	14,781	-44,013	29,347	18,435
South West	11,510	37,181	35,467	7,717	44,272	21,102
West Midlands	12,846	10,368	25,113	33,438	31,476	4,519
Yorkshire and Humber	847	2,349	15,372	7,423	11,156	7,978
Other security expenditure not broken down by region[2]	-9,032	19,853	12,089	23,153	35,604	20,549

[1] July's figure represents a recharge to the HCA as a result of HCA's delivery partner taking over the existing contract for security provision

[2] These figures represent expenditure on security which cannot be broken down to a regional level.

Note:
Figures rounded up or down as appropriate to the nearest £.

Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many first-time house buyers there have been in each year since 1996. [292745]

Mr. Ian Austin: The number of first-time buyers purchasing a home with a mortgage in the UK in each year since 1996 are presented as follows.

Number of first-time buyers purchasing with a mortgage, UK

	Number
1996	465,300
1997	501,500
1998	525,200
1999	592,400
2000	500,200
2001	568,200
2002	531,800
2003	369,600
2004	358,100
2005	372,200
2006	400,500
2007	357,100
2008	193,600

Source:
Council of Mortgage Lenders

We are ensuring support is in place to help first-time buyers through our HomeBuy schemes operated through the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme.

We have helped more than 110,000 households into home ownership since 1997 through our shared ownership and shared equity schemes.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department have responsibility for *(a)* the mortgage rescue scheme, *(b)* the homeowner mortgage support scheme, *(c)* the low cost home ownership scheme, *(d)* homelessness and *(e)* home information packs. [299193]

John Healey: The Department has three full-time equivalent employees working on the mortgage rescue scheme, 4.6 working on homeowners mortgage support and lender forbearance, nine working on low-cost home ownership policy including delivery of the HomeBuy scheme, seven working on homelessness and three working on home information packs.

Housing: Building Regulations

Mr. Horam: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many inspections of domestic oil tanks were undertaken to determine whether they had been installed in conformity with the building regulations in the latest 12 month period for which figures are available; and how many notices were issued to correct inappropriate installations. [298254]

Mr. Malik: Enforcement of compliance with the building regulations is undertaken by local authorities. There is no central register of enforcement notices served or prosecutions brought. In the main, local authorities aim to resolve issues that arise through inspection of and advice to those undertaking work. Enforcement notices and prosecution are only used as a last resort.

Housing: Complaints

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints relating to *(a)* shared home ownership, *(b)* antisocial behaviour, *(c)* repairs, *(d)* social housing allocations, *(e)* occupancy rights and *(f)* estate services were received by the Housing Ombudsman in each of the last three years. [298318]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* The number of complaints relating to antisocial behaviour, repairs, social housing allocations, occupancy rights and estate services received by the Housing Ombudsman in each of the last three years was as follows:

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Antisocial behaviour	521	577	580
Repairs	897	1,025	1,122
Allocations	318	384	348
Occupancy rights	145	128	116
Estate services	115	128	774

These figures originate from the growing awareness of the role of the Housing Ombudsman, and from the impact of the TSA and their work on the National Conversation, highlighting the complaints procedures available for tenants. Recent research by the Ombudsman indicates that there is growing awareness that the Ombudsman exists (up from roughly 30-50 per cent. of tenants).

'Estate services' are a catch all category for those complaints not easily fitting the other categories—for example, around landlord failure to communicate effectively.

The Housing Ombudsman service does not record separately the number of cases involving shared ownership.

Housing: Energy

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the *(a)* methodology and *(b)* underlying data used in the calculation of the efficiency values attributed to heat pumps in the draft Standard Assessment Procedure 2009; and from what sources the underlying data were derived. [298725]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

It is proposed that Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) 2009 will use actual, reliable and verified, seasonal performance data provided by manufacturers. Where such performance data have not been made available the default efficiency values listed in SAP 2009 will be used. The default values in SAP 2009 are the same as those listed in SAP 2005 and were derived in consultation with industry experts taking account of the field trial information available. The SAP methodology and default values will be informed by the procedure being developed with industry to determine actual seasonal performance values, for which supporting performance data are expected in early 2010, and the Energy Saving Trust's heat pump field trials.

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the calculation of the efficiency values attributed to heat pumps in the draft Standard Assessment Procedure 2009 included an assessment of the likely use of the pumps for periods of cooling. [298726]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The default efficiency values in SAP 2009 would not have included any assessment of the likely use of pumps for the periods of cooling, as they were derived for heating performance in consultation with industry experts for SAP 2005. As SAP 2009 enables the use of actual performance values it would be necessary to determine the heating and cooling performance of reversible heat pumps as separate inputs for the SAP.

Housing: Finance

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding for *(a)* Decent Homes, *(b)* Kick Start, *(c)* housing capital allocations and *(d)* other housing capital schemes has been provided by (i) his Department and (ii) the Homes and Communities Agency to (A) Barnet Council and (B) Barnet Homes arms length management organisation in the last 10 years; what the name was of each identifiable scheme which received funding; how much was provided for each such scheme; and how many (1) social rented, (2) low-cost purchase and (3) full-cost purchase properties there were in each such scheme. [298907]

Mr. Ian Austin: The question contains a number of sub-divisions, and the following response lists the available information and specifies the relevant sub-divisions.

(a) Decent Homes (A) Barnet Council (i) Provided by the Department

The following table sets out the Arms Length Management Organisations (ALMO) funding the Department has allocated to Barnet Council for its ALMO Barnet Homes as part of its Decent Homes programme. Funding was only available from 2004-5.

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Authority ALMO allocations	4,005,000	15,094,200	15,752,520	18,931,680	15,198,000	10,608,000
Number of dwellings at 1 April	11,611	11,328	11,147	11,118	11,117	11,086

(b) Kick Start (ii) Provided by HCA

Local authorities are not eligible to apply for Kick Start, as there is a separate funding pot available to local authorities, nor is it anticipated that ALMOs will apply as they are unlikely to own sites which meet the range of criteria outlined. The aim of the programme is to unlock stalled sites in England for the development of high-quality, mixed tenure homes. Where a local authority has appointed a delivery partner, for example through a disposal or development agreement to bring forward a site for housing development, the delivery partner can apply.

Barnet Homes have not applied for the Kick Start programme.

(c) Housing Capital Allocations (A) Barnet Council (i) Provided by the Department (i) Social rented

Barnet council				
	Housing investment programme (£ million)[1]	*Local authority supported capital expenditure (£ million)*[2]	*LB Barnet major repairs allowance total allowance (£ million)*[3]	*Number of dwellings at 1 April*
1999-2000	6.96	0.00	0.00	12,790
2000-01	10.19	0.00	0.00	12,559
2001-02	14.32	0.00	8 536	12,284
2002-03	15.35	0.00	8.566	12,017
2003-04	14.90	0.00	8.842	11,838
2004-05	0.00	4.31	8.297	11,611
2005-06	0.00	7.50	8.112	11,328
2006-07	0.00	2.13	7.939	11.147
2007-08	0.00	2.13	8.104	11,118
2008-09	0.00	2.21	8.060	11,117
2009-10	0.00	2.26	8.543	11,086

[1] Housing Investment Programme (HIP)—represented the Housing element of the local authority's Basic Credit Approval allocations, under the pre-2003 system. BCAs provided local authorities with approval to borrow for any capital purpose, including housing.

[2] Local Authority Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue)—(SCE(R))s represent a level of borrowing on which the Government are prepared to provide a revenue income stream to support the costs of the loans. The income stream calculated as part of the authority's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) subsidy entitlement.

[3] Major Repairs Allowance (MRA)—MRA allocations are paid as revenue as part of the local authority's HRA subsidy entitlement, but can only be used for capital expenditure or repayment of debt.

(d) Housing Capital Scheme (B) Barnet Homes Arms Length Management Order (ii) Provided by HCA

Barnet Homes have had a successful bid against Sustainable Homes Energy Savings Programme (SHESP) (the cavity wall insulation programme through Decent Homes) of approximately £1.9 million to cover 1,569 units.

(d) Housing Capital Scheme (A) Barnet Council (i) Provided by the Department

Barnet council		
	Disabled facilities grant (£000)	*Private sector renewal (£ million)*
1999-2000	0.00	0.00
2000-01	512	0.00
2001-02	585	0.00
2002-03	620	0.00
2003-04	620	0.00
2004-05	480	0.00
2005-06	605	0.00
2006-07	605	5.83
2007-08	702	5.83
2008-09	750	6.71
2009-10	861	9.73

Further details of allocations under defunct capital housing schemes would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Housing: Fires

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many deaths have resulted from domestic fires in each of the last 10 years; and what assessment his Department has made of these figures. [298324]

Mr. Malik: The numbers of fatalities resulting from dwelling fires are shown in the table for the latest 10 years for which data are available.

These figures are assessed to inform and evaluate policy and initiatives, for example in: "Learning Lessons from Real Fires: Findings from Fatal Fire Investigation Reports"

> http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/researchbulletinno9

and "Interim Evaluation of the Home Fire Risk Check Grant Programme"

> http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/homefireriskcheck

Number of fatalities in dwelling fires, England, 1999 to 2008[1]

	Fatalities
1999	334
2000	351
2001	358
2002	327
2003	349
2004	268
2005	288
2006	287
2007	251
2008[1]	257

[1] Provisional. Data for 2008 are provisional and subject to change.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made establishing a community land trust at Cashes Green in Stroud; and what discussions he has had on the matter with the Homes and Communities Agency. [298871]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency is working with local partners to establish the Cashes Green community land trust. Following extensive public engagement and community consultation, the Homes and Communities Agency has recently obtained planning consent for the redevelopment of the derelict site identified for this pilot land trust. It is now in the process of securing a development partner, by way of a competitive OJEU process, to deliver the overall scheme. Officials in the Department maintain regular contact with counterparts in the Homes and Communities Agency on this matter.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many community land trusts are in operation; where each is located; how many houses each has built; and how long each trust took to establish. [298872]

John Healey: Community land trusts are privately constituted bodies and are not required to register with the TSA unless they provide low-cost rental accommodation. The Department therefore does not hold the information requested.

Land Restoration Trust

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessors have given to the Land Restoration Trust in each of the last three years. [297429]

Mr. Ian Austin: In each of the last three years the Land Restoration Trust has received the following monies from the Department of Communities and Local Government and its predecessors: 2007—£1,140,554; 2008—£35,000; 2009—nil and from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and its predecessors: 2007—£11,156,967; 2008—£500,000; 2009—£5,045,196.

The six 'sites' the trust has acquired within this period are Canvey Wick, Dagenham Washlands, Dunlop Ponds, Upton Country Park, Vange Marshes, and Warrington Community Related Assets; between them they represent a mass of 260 hectares. Alongside the in-perpetuity maintenance of these sites (grass cutting, litter picking and infrastructure replacement), the trust regularly engage the local communities, hold a wide range of events and, most importantly, take on all the liabilities of those sites.

To date these six sites have delivered 3,350 health activities, 43 days of training, 816 educational activities with local schools and 378 volunteering days. It should be noted that three of these sites are still in the development process with restoration still being undertaken and so haven't achieved anywhere near their full potential as yet.

By allowing the trust to take on the ownership and management of these sites the HCA and CLG are protecting these spaces for future generations, ensuring that the cycle of dereliction is broken and future public sector funding.

Local Government: Contracts

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the extension of the Joint Statement on Access to Skills, Trade Unions and Advice in Government Contracting to local government. [293355]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply.

The Joint Statement on Access to Skills, Trade Unions and Advice in Government Contracting was launched across central Government Departments and Executive agencies in July 2008.

It has always been the Government's aim to extend the Joint Statement to other parts of the public services, following evaluation of the impact in central Government and subject to further discussion on the detail of any possible implementation.

A six-month review was recently completed by the Joint Statement Review Steering Group and is available in both Libraries of the House and on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/274789/joint-statement-review.pdf

The review recorded good progress in implementation across central Government Departments and Executive agencies and noted the potential for local government to adopt the principles of the Joint Statement. The method and timetable for further extension will now be for local government to determine, supported by central Government Departments.

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the effect of the 2010 non-domestic rate revaluation on the level of revenue raised from business rates on empty properties; and whether transitional rate relief is to apply to empty properties. [294551]

Barbara Follett: No assessment has been made of the effect of 2010 revaluation on the level of revenue raised from business rates on empty properties. These will be eligible for transitional relief in respect of increases in bills attributable to the revaluation.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases. This is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* small firm and *(b)* standard business rate multiplier in 2010-11 in (i) England outside the City of London, (ii) the City of London and (iii) Wales. [297436]

Barbara Follett: In the consultation for the Transitional Relief Scheme the Department estimated that, as a result of the revaluation, the small business multiplier for 2010-11 will be 41.3 pence. This did not take into account the negative RPI inflation for September.

The Department has also estimated a national non-domestic multiplier of 41.7 pence for 2010-11 to allow ratepayers to estimate their rates bills for this period on the Business Link website. As in previous years, this multiplier will be found by adding to the small business multiplier an amount to recover the cost of the small business rate relief scheme. The provisional multipliers will be announced in due course.

The Department does not estimate the multiplier for the City of London as it is for the City of London to determine in accordance with part II of schedule 7 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended by the Local Government Finance Act 1992).

The Department does not estimate the multiplier for Wales as this is a matter for the Welsh Assembly.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

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Seaside and Country Homes Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many tenants moved to each local authority area under the Seaside and Country Homes scheme in each of the last three years. [296927]

Mr. Ian Austin: The number of tenants that moved to local authority areas under the Seaside and Country Homes scheme in the last three years is detailed within following the table.

Seaside and Country Homes Scheme—destination statistics by local authority

Local authority	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*
Arun DC	6	12	3
Brighton and Hove City Council	1	6	1
Canterbury DC	2	5	7
Chichester DC	0	1	2
Christchurch DC	0	0	2
Colchester	2	0	0
Cornwall UA	3	4	2
Devon CC	1	2	0
Dorset CC	1	3	6
Dover DC	0	0	0
East Lindsey DC	3	3	1
Eastleigh BC	1	4	7
Gosport DC	2	1	4
Great Yarmouth	0	2	1
Hampshire CC	1	3	0
Hastings DC	1	1	1
Ipswich	1	0	0
Isle of Wight C	5	6	9
Kent CC	14	15	15
Lewes DC	1	6	3
Maldon DC	1	1	2
Mid Suffolk DC	3	0	3
New Forest DC	1	2	2
Norfolk CC	3	6	8
North Norfolk DC	0	2	3
North Somerset DC	6	1	5
Plymouth DC	1	3	2
Poole BC	0	0	1
Sedgemoor	2	7	3
Shropshire CC	1	3	0
Somerset CC	1	1	2
South Cambs	6	4	3
Southampton UA	0	4	4
Stevenage	1	0	0
Suffolk Coastal DC	5	18	8
Tendring DC	7	47	23
Tewkesbury DC	1	2	0
Thanet DC	2	7	7
Waveney CC	0	2	0
Wealden	0	0	0
West Berkshire	0	3	7
West Somerset DC	4	4	5
West Sussex CC	9	6	12
Wiltshire UA	1	6	7
Worthing BC	3	16	8
Total	105	219	179

Social Rented Housing: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the performance of Barnet Homes in delivering the decent homes initiative; and if he will make a statement. [298703]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Homes and Communities Agency, which manages the day-to-day delivery of the decent homes programme, reported that 24 per cent. of the council housing stock in Barnet did not meet the decent homes standard in 2008-09.

Barnet Homes are inspected by the independent Audit Commission across a range of performance areas, including the delivery of their decent homes investment programme. At its most recent inspection Barnet Homes was assessed as having an overall two star rating, and providing a good service with promising prospects for improvement.

Social Rented Housing: Standards

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department provides on requirements for *(a)* heating systems, *(b)* double glazing and *(c)* security of front and back doors under the decent homes standard; and if he will make a statement. [299364]

Mr. Ian Austin: The decent homes standard requires that all social housing provides a reasonable degree of thermal comfort. This includes efficient heating. The decent homes standard does not include the security of front and back doors or specify a requirement for double glazing but does allow for the replacement of windows. Guidance on the decent homes standard is available in "A Decent Homes: definition and guidance for implementation, June 2006" available at:

www.communities.gov.uk

Supporting People Programme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much he expects to be spent on Supporting People grants for women at risk of domestic violence in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [298203]

Mr. Malik: The Supporting People budget is allocated to the top tier local authorities as a single budget and CLG does not allocate the resource to specific client groups and therefore is unable to say what the expected expenditure will be. The Supporting People programme is a locally delivered and managed programme and it is for each local authority to allocate the available resource to provide Supporting People housing-related support services, including domestic violence provision based on local needs and priorities.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was allocated by his Department via Supporting People grants to *(a)* women at risk of domestic violence, *(b)* people who have been homeless or a rough sleeper and *(c)* homeless people with support needs in each region in each of the last five years. [298205]

Mr. Malik: The Supporting People budget is allocated to the top tier local authorities as a single budget and CLG does not allocate the resource to specific client groups. The Supporting People programme is a locally delivered and managed programme and it is for each local authority to allocate the available resource to provide Supporting People housing-related support services, including domestic violence provision and services for homeless or rough sleepers, based on local needs and priorities.

The following table sets out the amount spent on Supporting People services by region and by primary client group for 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08. Retrospective spend information for these three years was reported to the Department annually by administering authorities. Data relating to 2003-04 and 2004-05 in the following table reflect the actual level of Supporting People grant allocation.

SP financial information 2003-08 for domestic violence and homeless client groups by region

Region	*Women at risk of DV*	*Single homeless*	*Homeless Families*	*Rough sleeper*
*2003-04*¹				
North East	2,576,080	11,325,583	1,175,825	12,490
North West	7,076,490	44,003,942	14,541,305	214,161
Yorkshire and Humberside	6,251,324	21,470,521	5,725,026	940,473
East Midlands	5,992,686	24,960,194	4,201,243	163,221
West Midlands	8,771,676	21,409,392	3,896,430	0
East	4,463,617	25,470,320	2,765,475	11,560
London	11,865,055	80,960,743	12,619,090	8,474,084
South East	6,187,293	32,362,583	3,590,283	1,741,992
South West	4,034,999	26,915,286	3,044,761	1,086,375
Total	57,131,302	288,847,929	51,750,089	12,720,645
*2004-05*¹				
North East	2,585,704	11,240,267	1,172,810	12,375
North West	7,039,468	43,647,762	14,405,307	211,083
Yorkshire and Humberside	6,199,396	21,185,617	5,630,156	928,434
East Midlands	5,917,736	24,557,471	4,136,585	158,920
West Midlands	8,752,984	21,329,427	3,918,316	0
East	4,452,971	25,553,926	2,779,950	11,511
London	11,842,080	80,338,357	12,576,077	8,373,176
South East	6,161,947	32,209,093	3,581,707	1,723,219
South West	4,021,760	26,880,436	3,023,289	1,086,455
Total	56,963,556	286,947,146	51,225,203	12,505,180
2005-06				
North East	2,835,677	10,902,022	1,280,539	12,980
North West	7,369,185	35,434,968	10,692,917	721,542
Yorkshire and Humberside	6,244,079	20,477,330	5,467,080	585,472
East Midlands	5,705,247	19,075,171	4,299,785	150,369
West Midlands	9,078,928	20,504,573	2,357,009	0
East	4,626,515	22,342,815	2,560,051	10,378
London	11,674,608	68,885,005	15,873,832	11,971,560
South East	6,673,546	31,876,031	3,924,310	1,991,145
South West	4,325,474	22,351,993	3,107,731	799,450
Total	59,333,258	251,770,808	49,472,818	16,259,386
2006-07				
North East	2,727,974	11,144,585	1,239,057	13,651
North West	7,764,318	34,875,223	10,651,293	964,211
Yorkshire and Humberside	6,516,817	17,544,805	5,929,048	743,354
East Midlands	6,093,211	17,740,659	3,981,415	261,947
West Midlands	9,731,621	19,450,876	2,777,146	0
East	4,807,037	15,826,621	2,400,933	19,294
London	12,478,747	63,425,571	14,740,999	12,753,861
South East	6,935,572	28,720,075	3,799,682	1,510,665
South West	4,590,023	21,887,261	3,194,813	1,218,770
Total	61,645,319	233,623,077	48,722,386	17,485,753
2007-08				
North East	3,042,569	10,262,428	1,367,896	41,249
North West	7,903,985	35,085,385	11,414,123	1,147,129
Yorkshire and Humberside	6,824,502	17,303,932	6,290,180	1,086,917
East Midlands	6,719,608	19,104,846	3,883,591	174,599
West Midlands	10,141,312	18,453,935	2,538,846	280,297
East	4,775,527	19,736,289	2,640,753	15,504
London	12,870,564	54,606,919	12,611,487	12,314,292
South East	7,390,539	28,133,640	3,176,137	1,477,343
South West	4,854,078	19,467,420	3,080,183	2,030,357
Total	64,523,484	222,162,774	46,939,918	18,776,089

[1] The Supporting People Programme came into effect on 1st April 2003 and as such financial information relating to Supporting People services is only available from this time. The information included in the above table shows the breakdown of SP financial information for each region as a whole for the first five years of the programme. Data relating to the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 reflect the level of grant allocation which was based on the picture of SP services as at 1 April 2003 (programme go live)—what actual spend levels per client group were in these years will not be the same, as actual reported spend data are not available. Information relating to the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 reflects actual spend as reported by AAs at the end of each financial year. Analysis of the 2008-09 data is yet to be finalised.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities received funding via the Supporting People programme for expenditure on services for women at risk of domestic violence in the last 12 months. [298206]

Mr. Malik: The Supporting People budget is allocated to the 150 top tier local authorities as a single budget and CLG does not allocate the resource to specific client groups. The Supporting People programme is a locally delivered and managed programme and it is for each local authority to allocate the available resource to provide Supporting People housing-related support services, including domestic violence provision based on local needs and priorities.

Spend information for 2007-08 reported to the Department by Supporting People administering authorities showed that out of the 150 top tier local authorities 147 used their Supporting People funding to deliver domestic violence services.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in each client group received a Supporting People grant in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available. [298207]

Mr. Malik: The Supporting People programme is administered at the local level by the relevant administering authority. It is for the authority to decide which services to fund, informed by the local needs and priorities identified in their five-year Supporting People strategies. People who are eligible for Supporting People funding tend to use a service, rather than receive a cashable grant.

Data are collected on the amount of housing-related support services available to different client groups (measured in household units). The following table provides a snapshot of the services available at a particular point in time during each of the last four quarters, but does not reflect the total number of households who have accessed services during each year. Household unit information is reported to the Department on a quarterly basis, by administering authorities.

HHU's as at the end of each quarter of 2008-09

Primary client group	*Quarter 1* *30 June 2008*	*Quarter 2* *30 September 2008*	*Quarter 3* *31 December 2008*	*Quarter 4* *31 March 2009*
Frail elderly	34,366	35,425	35,834	35,740
Generic	36,230	36,370	38,263	45,230
Homeless families with support needs	14,257	14,370	14,270	15,002
Mentally disordered offenders	222	222	236	237
Offenders or people at risk of offending	7,831	8,247	8,326	8,508
Older people with mental health problems/dementia	1,240	1,253	1,227	1,463
Older people with support needs	787,838	798,998	792,160	805,641
People with a physical or sensory disability	11,928	12,170	12,098	12,321
People with alcohol problems	3,208	3,020	3,233	3,300
People with drug problems	5,023	5,396	5,435	5,403
People with HIV/AIDS	822	868	878	838
People with learning disabilities	32,816	30,978	30,910	30,678
People with mental health problems	36,675	36,510	36,405	36,311
Refugees	2,609	2,682	2,754	2,562
Rough sleeper	2,547	2,521	2,601	2,706
Single homeless with support needs	38,751	39,740	39,952	39,805
Teenage parents	3,868	3,891	3,871	3,817
Traveller	1,190	1,296	1,362	1,407
Women at risk of domestic violence	9,845	9,958	10,120	10,540
Young people at risk	19,840	20,037	20,456	20,526
Young people leaving care	1,831	1,896	1,855	1,834
	1,051,371	1,063,629	1,062,406	1,083,406
National adjustments	*1,219*	*-30,471*	*-4,071*	—

It should be noted that in Q1, Q2 and Q4 the overall household unit available figures were adjusted (up or down) for some authorities. However these adjustments were not applied at service level and can therefore not be applied to the individual client group totals. The figures shown in italics therefore represent an overall adjustment to the national household unit count required to bring the above analysis in line with the nationally published figures.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Africa: Foreign Relations

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the state of relations between the UK and each country in North Africa. [298938]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK has strong bilateral relations with North African countries, and has embassies in Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia working to promote UK strategic objectives on migration, security, trade and commerce, energy security and climate change, and to support British nationals abroad.

We work closely with these Governments and our EU partners to promote a secure, stable and prosperous North Africa.

Anti-Semitism: Eastern Europe

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on levels of anti-Semitism in *(a)* Ukraine, *(b)* Latvia and *(c)* Estonia since January 2009; what plans he has to hold further such discussions; and if he will make a statement. [R] [298343]

Chris Bryant: We and our EU partners continue to attach high importance to the issue of anti-Semitism. Respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rights of people belonging to minorities in line with international standards are core EU values.

Ukraine must abide by these standards and values if it is to deepen its relationship with the EU. In Ukraine, we have raised our concerns with the authorities and will continue do so whenever necessary.

In Latvia, our embassy in Riga maintains a positive dialogue with the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Jewish community and likeminded partners, focused on the resolution of claims relating to the restitution of Jewish property and the demarcation of Jewish sites.

We are not aware of any current issues in Estonia but continue to work closely with all EU partners to combat all forms of racism, including anti-Semitism.

Departmental Postal Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of postal services for his Department and its agencies were provided by *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* other postal service providers (i) in 2007, (ii) in 2008, (iii) between 1 January and 1 July 2009 and (iv) after 1 July 2009. [298720]

Chris Bryant: For the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and its agencies, between November 2007 and October 2008 approximately 99.6 per cent. of postal services were provided by Royal Mail and approximately 0.4 per cent. were provided by another postal service supplier. Between November 2008 and October 2009 approximately 99.8 per cent. of postal services were provided by Royal Mail and approximately 0.2 per cent. were provided by another postal service supplier.

Automated statistics prior to November 2007 are not available. Statistics between November 2007 and October 2008 are partially estimated as although the London based franking system can provide statistics throughout the period in question, the Hanslope Park based franking system is only able to produce statistics covering November 2008 to October 2009. Manually collated information covering the specific timescales requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of postal services provided for his Department and its agencies were provided by *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* other postal service providers (i) in 2007, (ii) in 2008, (iii) between 1 January and 1 July 2009 and (iv) after 1 July 2009. [298728]

Chris Bryant: For the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and its agencies, between November 2007 and October 2008 approximately 99.6 per cent. of postal services were provided by Royal Mail and approximately 0.4 per cent. were provided by another postal service supplier. Between November 2008 and October 2009 approximately 99.8 per cent. of postal services were provided by Royal Mail and approximately 0.2 per cent. were provided by another postal service supplier.

Automated statistics prior to November 2007 are not available. Statistics between November 2007 and October 2008 are partially estimated as although the London based franking system can provide statistics throughout the period in question, the Hanslope Park based franking system is only able to produce statistics covering November 2008 to October 2009. Manually collated information covering the specific timescales requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with which providers *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies had a contract to provide postal services in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, (iii) between 1 January 2009 and 1 July 2009 and (iv) since 1 July 2009. [299426]

Chris Bryant: While Royal Mail handles the majority of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s UK based mail, FCO Services, which manages postal services for the FCO, has had a contract which covers the entire period in question with DHL Global Forwarding (UK) Ltd. to provide some postal services for the department.

Departmental Air Travel

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many domestic flights within Great Britain officials from his Department made in 2008-09; and at what cost. [298742]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 9 November 2009]*: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials made 507 domestic flights within Great Britain at a cost of £59,933 between April 2008 and March 2009.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many first-class flights were taken by each Minister in his Department in 2008-09; and what the *(a)* origin, *(b)* destination and *(c)* cost was of each such flight. [298752]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to the annual list of Minister's overseas travel costing more than £500 which is published by the Cabinet Office. The List for 2008-09 can be accessed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/226022/travel_2008_2009.pdf

Departmental Billing

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2009. [299550]

Chris Bryant: In September 96.5 per cent. of invoices from suppliers were paid within 10 days of receipt. The figure for October was 95.2 per cent.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department were employed on the management of freedom of information requests submitted to his Department in each year since 2005; and how much his Department spent on the management of such requests in each such year. [299143]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has 10 staff in its Information Rights Team who are responsible for managing Freedom of Information (FOI) and subject access requests under the FOI and Data Protection Acts respectively. However, a large number of staff in the FCO play a role in answering FOI requests and to find out exactly how many would incur disproportionate cost.

A report prepared for the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) by Frontier Economics Ltd., in October 2006, entitled "Independent Review of the impact of the Freedom of Information Act" estimated a figure of £254 for a central Government body to deal with an initial FOI request. Based on this figure, the FCO spent an estimated £334,010 on initial FOI requests in 2005, £261,620 in 2006, £260,604 in 2007, £258,826 in 2008 and £232,410 to end October in 2009.

The report is available on the MoJ website at:

http://www.foi.gov.uk/reference/foi-independent-review.pdf

Departmental Marketing

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on advertising and publicity in each of the last five years. [294971]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to the reply on advertising given by my noble Friend Baroness Kinnock today (HL5509).

In addition to that reply, consular directorate's publicity team spent the following from their publications budget:

	£
2004-05	n/a
2005-06	531,000
2006-07	[1]750,000
2007-08	683,000
2008-09	611,000

[1] Including World cup expense

This expenditure includes the cost of digital media and producing and distributing consular leaflets and booklets.

In 2008-09 our communications directorate spent £859,485 on publicity (strategic campaigns). Figures prior to this are not available, nor are figures for spend at our posts abroad.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department was in the last 12 months. [299588]

Chris Bryant: No special advisers are provided with an allocated Government car and driver. As with all civil servants, special advisers may use an official car or taxi in properly defined circumstances. Details of such use is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Secondment

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many civil servants of each grade have been seconded from his Department to *(a)* the private sector, *(b)* non-governmental organisations and *(c)* other organisations in each year since April 2003; and what the (i) dates and (ii) locations of each secondment were. [298711]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* The following figures list Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff on outward loan or secondment since 2007. The FCO does not have centrally-held records of these appointments before 2007.

These figures do not include FCO staff working for UK Trade and Investment or UK Border Agency (with whom the FCO has joint recruitment arrangements), FCO staff working for other organisations while on special unpaid leave or those working on an informal basis.

Grade	*Organisation*	*From*	*To*
A2	DIUS	2007	2008
A2	Cabinet Office	2008	2009
A2	DIUS	2008	2008
A2	BERR	2008	2010
A2	Home Office	2009	2011
B3	Home Office	2008	2009
B3	DFID	2009	2009
B3	MOD	2007	2008
B3	DIUS	2008	2009
B3	DFID	2007	2009
B3	Cabinet Office	2007	2008
B3	Cabinet Office	2006	2009
B3	Cabinet Office	2005	2008
B3	Clarence House	2007	2010
B3	Home Office	2008	2010
B3	Cabinet Office	2009	2011
B3	Cabinet Office	2009	2011
B3	DCMS	2008	2011
B3	Cabinet Office	2008	2010
B3	Home Office	2008	2010
C4	Cabinet Office	2008	2009
C4	Home Office	2008	2008
C4	DFID	2008	2009
C4	DFID	2007	2008
C4	Cabinet Office	2008	2009
C4	Cabinet Office	2007	2009
C4	DIUS	2006	2008
C4	ONS	2007	2008
C4	CPS	2007	2009
C4	Cabinet Office	2007	2009
C4	Cabinet Office	2005	2008
C4	BIA	2008	2008
C4	Scottish Executive	2006	2009
C4	Cabinet Office	2006	2008
C4	DFID	2006	2008
C4	DFID	2006	2009
C4	Manchester Airport Plc	2009	2010
C4	Cabinet Office	2009	2011
C4	DFID	2008	2010
C5	British Expertise	2005	2009
C5	Corp of London	2007	2009
C5	DIUS	2008	2008
C5	Cabinet Office	2007	2009
C5	DFID	2009	2009
C5	Cabinet Office	2007	2009
C5	Scottish Development International	2006	2009
C5	Learning and Skills Council	2008	2010
C5	Advantage West Midlands	2008	2011
C5	UK Supreme Court	2009	2009
C5	Shell	2009	2011
C5	MOD	2008	2011
D6	DFT	2005	2010
D6	Cabinet Office	2008	2008
D6	HMT	2004	2009
D6	Think London	2007	2008
D6	Home Office	2008	2010
D6	Cabinet Office	2008	2008
D6	City of London	2007	2008

Grade	*Organisation*	*From*	*To*
D6	DFID	2005	2009
D6	Cabinet Office	2008	2009
D6	DFID	2005	2008
D6	Cabinet Office	2007	2009
D6	No 10	2007	2009
D6	Home Office	2007	2009
D6	Southampton University	2005	2007
D6	Home Office	2007	2008
D6	City Inn	2008	2010
D6	Cabinet Office	2008	2010
D6	DFID	2008	2011
D6	HMT	2009	2011
D6	BIA	2008	2010
D6	Intellectual Property Office	2008	2010
D6	Australian Dept of Climate Change	2009	2011
D6	Wilton Park Executive	2007	2010
D6	HMT	2009	2012
D6	Africa Matters Ltd	2005	2010
D6	BERR	2008	2011
D6	HMT	2009	2012
D6	Cabinet Office	2008	2009
D6	Cabinet Office	2009	2010
D6	Cabinet Office	2005	2012
D6	HMT	2009	2010
D6	DCLG	2008	2010
D6	Cabinet Office	2009	2011
D6	DFID	2009	2011
D7	Cabinet Office	2008	2009
D7	Middle East Association	2006	2009
D7	Cabinet Office	2008	2009
D7	Home Office	2007	2008
D7	Buckingham Palace	2007	2010
D7	DIUS	2008	2009
D7	Cabinet Office	2008	2011
D7	SEEDA	2008	2011
D7	Home Office	2008	2010
D7	Home Office	2008	2010
D7	Third Generation Environmentalism Ltd.	2008	2010
D7	Metropolitan Police	2008	2010
D7	J P Morgan	2007	2010
D7	Cabinet Office	2009	2011
D7	Cabinet Office	2009	2010
D7	National School of Government	2008	2011
D7	Imperial College	2008	2010
D7	Cabinet Office	2009	2011
D7	DCMS	2009	2012
SMS 1	AIG	2008	2008
SMS 1	3i Group plc	2008	2009
SMS 1	Eurasia Group	2009	2009
SMS 1	Cabinet Office	2006	2009
SMS 1	Cabinet Office	2007	2008
SMS 1	Cabinet Office	2008	2009
SMS 1	Cabinet Office	2008	2009
SMS 1	Ashridge Business School	2007	2008
SMS 1	DEFRA	2007	2009
SMS 1	3i Group PLC	2008	2009
SMS 1	Cabinet Office	2006	2008
SMS 1	Clarence House	2006	2010
SMS 1	Treasury Solicitor's Office	2008	2011
SMS 1	MOJ	2008	2010
SMS 1	Home Office	2008	2011
SMS 1	Cabinet Office	2007	2010
SMS 1	Cabinet Office	2008	2010
SMS 1	IPO	2008	2010
SMS 1	DFID	2009	2011
SMS 1	Cabinet Office	2008	2010
SMS 1	Energy Technologies Institute	2009	2010
SMS 1	DWP	2008	2010
SMS 1	DEFRA	2007	2009
SMS 1	Cabinet Office	2008	2010
SMS 1	Cabinet Office	2007	2008
SMS 1	Treasury Solicitors	2008	2010
SMS 2	Scottish Executive	2006	2010
SMS 2	HMT	2009	2011
SMS 2	Ofcom	2008	2009
SMS 2	Cabinet Office	2003	2009
SMS 2	Cabinet Office	2008	2009
SMS 2	Home Office	2005	2009
SMS 2	Rolls Royce PLC	2008	2009
SMS 2	MOJ	2008	2013
SMS 2	BAE Systems	2009	2010
SMS 3	Cabinet Office	2007	2010

Grades guide:
A2 = HCS AA
B3 = HCS EO
C4 = HCS HEO
C5 = HCS SEO
D6 = HCS Grade 7
D7 = HCS Grade 6
SMS1 = HCS Grade 5
SMS2 = HCS Grade 3
SMS3 = HCS Grade 2

Gilad Shalit

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to Governments of Arab states to secure the release of Gilad Shalit. [298555]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We continue to call on Hamas to release Gilad Shalit without further delay or conditions. I met Noam Shalit, Gilad's father, in Tel Aviv in August 2009 to demonstrate our ongoing support. On the same visit, I also stressed the need for his immediate release to those I met within the Palestinian Authority. Since then, in discussions at the UN, we have also made clear to Arab governments and others the need for his immediate release.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with human rights organisations on Gilad Shalit since July 2009; and if he will make a statement. [298561]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: During recent exchanges with non-governmental organisations on the Goldstone report, we have continued to stress the need for Hamas to release Gilad Shalit without further delay or conditions.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had recent discussions with representatives of the Arab League on Gilad Shalit. [298562]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We continue to call on Hamas to release Gilad Shalit without further delay or conditions. In recent discussions at the UN, we have made clear to all concerned, including the Arab League, the need for his immediate release.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* he, *(b)* ministerial colleagues and *(c)* officials of (i) his Department and (ii) other Government Departments have had recent discussions with representatives of (A) the Palestinian authority, (B) Hamas and (c) Hezbollah on Gilad Shalit. [298563]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We continue to call on Hamas which is holding Gilad Shalit to release him without further delay or conditions. While we welcome the videotape released by Hamas on 2 October 2009 as part of a prisoner-swap deal, the continued captivity of Gilad Shafit is utterly unacceptable.

India

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens he expects will leave India as a result of his Department's recent advice to them to consider doing so; what support and advice his Department is offering to British citizens asking to leave; and if he will make a statement. [299009]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice for India does not advise British citizens to leave India.

International Conference on the Great Lakes Region

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance the Government is providing to the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR); and whether he has made a recent assessment of *(a)* the effects on the political situation in that region of the ICGLR and *(b)* merits of taking steps to seek to increase the effectiveness of the ICGLR. [297293]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government provided assistance, including funding, to establish the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) in 2004 as a vehicle for promoting dialogue and resolving conflict among member states. In late 2008 the ICGLR provided a forum for discussion between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda, and their neighbours in the wider region, on the problems of the eastern DRC. The ICGLR can play a role as a facilitator in bringing the countries of the region together, but real progress depends on the will and commitment of the leaders of the countries involved.

Iraq: Armed Conflict

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Iraqi locally employed civilians have been killed by militias in Iraq. [298607]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Over 40 Iraqis who have worked for our military, civilian and police training missions have been reported as having been killed as a result of their association with us. Others have died in accidents, of natural causes or in violent incidents in which they do not appear to have been specifically targeted.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many former Iraqi locally employed civilians have *(a)* accepted financial payments from the UK Government and *(b)* had their applications for assistance under the scheme rejected. [298613]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: 284 former locally engaged staff have opted for financial payments and 590 have had their applications rejected. The main reasons for the rejections were that the applicants had not been employed for the requisite 12 months' period; had not been employed as interpreters/translators or in similarly skilled or professional roles necessitating the regular use of written or spoken English; or had not been employed directly by the Government.

Iraq: Asylum

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many former Iraqi locally employed civilians have been granted asylum in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [298615]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A total of 427 Iraqi nationals, consisting of 135 former locally employed civilians plus their dependants, have been granted asylum and been resettled to the UK under the Locally Employed Staff Assistance Scheme as at 2 November 2009.

A further 45 Iraqi nationals consisting of 12 Iraqi staff plus their dependents, have been accepted for resettlement and will be moved to the UK in the coming weeks.

These data are normally used for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply to National Statistics publications. These data are provisional and may be subject to change.

Libya: EC Relations

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on a framework agreement between the EU and Libya; and if he will make a statement. [298936]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right. hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any recent discussions with his EU counterparts on the EU-Libya framework agreement.

In July 2008 the Justice and Home Affairs Council approved a negotiating mandate for the Commission to take forward negotiations on the EU-Libyan framework agreement. Negotiations began in November 2008. Discussions take place at official level within the EU on a regular basis. UK officials hold regular discussions with EU partners at working group and Coreper (Permanent Representatives) levels in Brussels on the state of negotiations.

Religious Freedom

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of human rights organisations on the persecution of Christians in *(a)* India and *(b)* Pakistan. [298686]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are encouraging human rights reform through our regular dialogue with the Governments of India and Pakistan, bilaterally through the EU and through meetings between Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials and human rights organisations on the subject of the persecution of Christians in India and Pakistan.

Along with our EU colleagues we regularly discuss our concerns with human rights organisations over the situation of human rights and religious minorities in India and Pakistan. The most recent démarche called upon the Government of Pakistan to promote religious tolerance and to protect freedom of expression and to reform discriminatory legislation such as the blasphemy laws. Minority rights are discussed as part of the continuing EU-India human rights dialogue.

Rwanda: Politics and Government

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking with *(a)* other donor countries and *(b)* the Rwandan government to ensure that the recommendations of the EU Electoral Observer Mission to Rwanda in 2008 are implemented before the presidential election in Rwanda in 2010. [297292]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development are working closely with the national electoral commission and other donor countries to encourage implementation of the recommendations of the 2008 EU Election Observation Mission to Rwanda. The Commission and donors discuss progress in implementing the recommendations on a monthly basis. The UK has also made detailed recommendations to the Electoral Commission on the draft electoral code, which will form the legal basis for the 2010 elections.

Western Sahara: Land Mines

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with his Moroccan counterpart on mine clearance in the occupied territory of Western Sahara. [299307]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UN Mission in Western Sahara (MINURSO) and, under MINURSO guidance, the parties to the dispute, are responsible for marking and disposing of mines and unexploded ordinance in the disputed territory of Western Sahara.

MINURSO, as the most appropriate body to do so, regularly discusses mine clearance with the Moroccan authorities. Landmine Action, a UK based non-governmental organisation works closely with MINURSO and the Government funds the work of MINURSO through our assessed contributions to the UN.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government plans to take to encourage co-operation between the governing parties in Zimbabwe. [296738]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK wants the Government of Zimbabwe to succeed in delivering the political and economic reform outlined in the Global Political Agreement (GPA). Following the visit by Prime Minister Tsvangirai to the UK in June 2009, in which representative of all parties in the Government of Zimbabwe participated, we have continued to provide political and technical support to the Government of Zimbabwe to support the inclusive Government to increase the prospects of reform in Zimbabwe.

As guarantors of the GPA, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and South Africa have a key role to play in supporting implementation of the GPA. We are encouraged by the outcome of the SADC meeting in Maputo on 5 November 2009. We urge South Africa and the region to remain committed to promoting reform in Zimbabwe and the parties in the inclusive Government to continue to work to implement the GPA.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Better Off In Work Credit

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what plans she has for the future of the Better Off in Work credit; [298785]

(2) how many people have received a better off in work credit since the pilots began. [298867]

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the Better Off in Work pilot in Yorkshire; and when she plans to implement the scheme nationwide. [298789]

Jim Knight: When we introduced the Better off in Work Credit pilot in October 2008 we said that it would run for a year. Therefore, the pilot came to an end on 30 October 2009. We are now undertaking a thorough evaluation of the pilot to assess the Better off in Work Credit's impact.

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: Correspondence

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Child Support Agency will respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Canterbury of 31 July and 18 September 2009 on the case of Mr and Mrs Quinney, constituents of the hon. Member. [299758]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the child maintenance commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when the Child Support Agency will respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Canterbury of 31 July and 18 September on the case of Mr and Mrs Quinney constituents of the hon. Member. [299758]

As details about individual cases are confidential I have written to you separately about this case.

Child Support Agency

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff have been moved from the Child Support Agency to other posts within her Department, its agencies and its non-departmental bodies since 1 January 2008 or the nearest date to that for which figures are available. [296734]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff have been moved from the Child Support Agency to other posts within her Department its agencies and its non-departmental bodies since 1 January 2008 or the nearest date to that for which figures are available. [296734]

On 1 November 2008 the Department for Work and Pensions transferred the functions of the Child Support Agency and its 10,524 people (9,319 full time equivalents) to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (the Commission).

In Januafy 2009 and in consultation with Jobcentre Plus the Commission brought forward a reorganisation to enable the transfer of people and estate to Jobcentre Plus. This contributed to the Department's plans to increase Jobcentre Plus staffing to reflect the increasing numbers of clients as a result of the economic downturn. A total of 636 people (551 full time equivalents) and eight sites were transferred to Jobcentre Plus. No other employees have been moved to any other part of the Department outside the Commission other than those individuals who have successfully applied for posts on level transfer or promotion.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Crimes of Violence

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many reported assaults of each type there were on staff of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of her Department's agencies in 2008-09. [298910]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* The following table provides information on the number of reported assaults on staff in DWP and its agencies, for 2008-09. The only reported assaults were in the delivery businesses, shown in the following table. Numbers of incidents reported in PDCS reflects the nature of their businesses delivery, of which contact with the customer is mainly telephony based. The information is broken down into three types of assault: actual, attempted and verbal.

DWP by business	*Actual*	*Attempted*	*Verbal*	*Total*
Jobcentre Plus	294	896	12,188	13,378
Pensions, Disability & Carers Service	0	0	188	188
DWP Total	294	896	12,376	13,566

Crisis Loans

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many crisis loan decision makers were in post in each of the last 24 months; and if she will make a statement. [298853]

Helen Goodman: The information requested cannot be provided other than at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of invoices from suppliers her Department paid within 10 days of receipt in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2009. [299553]

Jim Knight: Latest information available for the last two months up to the 7 October is as follows:

10-day performance target	
	Percentage
2009	
September	96.7
October	97.5

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in her Department were employed on the management of freedom of information requests submitted to her Department in each year since 2005; and how much her Department spent on the management of such requests in each such year. [299133]

Jim Knight: Freedom of information within my Department is overseen by a central team consisting of four full-time staff dedicated to freedom of information (FoI). This team is supported by a network of business unit Focal Points who coordinate and allocate those requests for information that fall outside normal business and which are dealt with formally under the FoI Act. The FoI focal points are spread across all the Department's key business units and FoI is only part of their duties. It is not possible to disaggregate the time and cost incurred in discharging their FoI responsibilities.

Neither does my Department hold information on costs of responding to individual FoI requests as this is an integral part of all staffs' responsibilities.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in her Department was in the last 12 months. [299597]

Jim Knight: In the DWP, special advisers are not provided with an allocated Government car and driver. As with all civil servants, special advisers may use an official car or taxi in properly defined circumstances. Details of such use is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* average time to answer a call, *(b)* average waiting time for a client during a call, *(c)* percentage of calls dropped or not answered and *(d)* average length of a call was in a call centre run by her Department and each of its agencies in the latest period for which figures are available. [299338]

Jim Knight: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) operates through two main customer delivery businesses; Jobcentre Plus and the Pension, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS). Figures are provided for the contact centres run by each of these businesses.

Jobcentre Plus contact centre directorate service lines

	Figures
(a) Average speed of answer	1 minute 22 seconds
(b) Average inbound hold time	11 seconds
(c) Calls dropped/not answered (percentage)	7.3
(d) Average call length	6 minutes 34 seconds

Pension, Disability and Carers Service

PDCS call centre information: 1 April 2009 to date	*Helpline*	*BEL*	*CA*	*Pensions*
(a) Average time to answer a call	1 minute 32 seconds	31 seconds	1 minute 27 seconds	54 seconds
(b) Average waiting time for a client during a call	Information not available[1]			
(c) Percentage of calls dropped or not answered (percentage)	7.5	4.2	6.3	4.92
(d) Average length of a call	3 minutes 11 seconds	1 minute 35 seconds	2 minutes 29 seconds	9 minutes 31 seconds

[1] To fully calculate the average waiting time for a customer during a call would properly include the time spent by customers who terminate their call before they are connected to an agent. The management information available to calculate this is only held locally and is insufficiently robust for the purposes of answering a Parliamentary Question.

Notes:

1. Prior to a call being answered by an advisor, the customer is initially presented with a recorded message. Following the end of that message, the customer's call is then directed into a queue for answer. The average time to answer a call is calculated from the point that the call joins the queue for answer.
2. All timings are provided in minutes and seconds.

Source:

Pension data: Avaya and Opmis M1 systems.
Helpline/BEL/Carers data: Opmis M1 system.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether an assessment has been made of the level of failure demand in call centres run by her Department and each of its agencies. [299339]

Jim Knight: The Department makes regular assessments of the levels of avoidable contact, most recently through a survey conducted in February 2009. Results from the survey are shown in the following table.

		Million per year
	Total calls received	*Avoidable calls received*
Jobcentre Plus	57.0	23.1
Pension Disability and Carer Service	19.3	5.3
Debt Management	1.2	0.24
DWP	77.5	28.7

Notes:

1. Annual volumes are based on extrapolation from a sample survey taken in February 2009.
2. Figures exclude calls to Jobcentres as these are not run as call centres.
3. Avoidable contact is "contact that adds no value to the outcome. It includes contact that is nugatory, duplicative or caused by failures in business processes." Avoidable contacts can include wrong numbers, progress chasing calls and calls for clarification.

In line with the recommendations of Sir David Varney's report, Service Transformation, DWP has plans to reduce levels of avoidable contact by 50 per cent. by April 2011.

DirectGov: Publicity

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the advertising, public relations, publicity and marketing budget for DirectGov *(a)* was in 2007-08, *(b)* was in 2008-09 and *(c)* is in 2009-10. [290140]

Jim Knight: Expenditure for advertising, public relations, publicity and marketing was £2,908,737 in financial year 2007-08 and £7,481,309 in financial year 2008-09. The budget for financial year 2009-10 is £3,250,000, well under 0.1 per cent of departmental expenditure.

Elektron Instruments: Redundancy

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance her Department is giving to employees at risk of redundancy at Elektron Instruments Limited in Torquay. [298055]

Jim Knight: On 28 January 2009 Elektron Instruments notified Jobcentre Plus that they were planning to make 35 of their 136 employees in Torquay redundant. These were mainly semi-skilled print setters who had been with the company for a long time. They would be going in two 'waves', the first on 27 February 2009 and the second on 27 March 2009. This number was later reduced to 25.

We contacted the company the same day, and offered to give redundancy talks to those employees affected under the Rapid Response Scheme. The talks would cover an overview of how to claim benefit, the work we do with partner organisations and help jobseekers find work. They also signpost the Learning and Skills Council provision and make information and leaflets available. The aim is to help minimise some of the apprehension and prepare people for their first contact with Jobcentre Plus, especially if they have not claimed benefit for some time.

The Rapid Response Manager arranged to talk to 11 employees on 19 February 2009, supported by the Jobcentre Manager and a financial adviser.

We have established an excellent relationship with the company. They have been reducing gradually over the year, and they have contacted us each time they have been planning on making further reductions in staff to ask for the Rapid Response Scheme talks for the employees affected.

The company last contacted us on 26 October 2009 to notify that 12 more people had been put under notice. Our Rapid Response Scheme manager has arranged to talk to the outgoing employees on 18 November 2009.

Employment Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been in receipt of a training allowance *(a)* in each year since 1997 and *(b)* in each month of the last two years. [297356]

Jim Knight: The figures are not collected centrally.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made towards fulfilling the guarantee that any person moving from welfare into work will be better off. [298654]

Jim Knight: The combination of the national minimum wage, tax credits, and the other forms of in-work support we have introduced ensures that work pays for the vast majority of people under the current tax and benefit systems. In particular, lone parents and disabled people have an income that is significantly higher in work than on the out-of-work benefits.

Parents living in rented accommodation who are moving into work are seeing a significantly increased gain to work as a result of changes introduced on 2 November 2009. From this date, child benefit, which had been treated as income in working out entitlement to housing benefit and council tax benefit has been fully disregarded. The effect has been to increase the gain to work for a family with one child by up to £17 per week.

In addition, for the last year, we have been piloting a Better Off in Work Credit. The aim of this credit was to reassure our customers that moving into work would be financially beneficial and to encourage them to look for and start work. The pilot ended on 30 October 2009. We are now evaluating the impact of this credit.

Employment Schemes: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of the clients who have participated in the *(a)* Project Search and *(b)* Getting a Life programmes have achieved sustained employment; what estimate she has made of the average cost to each programme of each such job outcome; and what plans her Department has for the future operation of each such programme. [295571]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* The Government are not currently operating Project Search. However, sites are in operation in Norwich, Leicester and Bath under individual agreements between each site and Project Search USA. We do not routinely collect any information on the costs or outcomes in any of these sites.

The launch of the learning disability employment strategy Valuing Employment Now on 24 June announced that the Government was inviting proposals from local partnerships interested in running Project Search and taking part in a Government evaluation of the model. We are currently selecting sites to run the model from September 2010.

Information on the number of people who have achieved sustainable employment through the Getting A Life programme is not yet available.

Getting A Life is planned to run until March 2011. The Government have commissioned an evaluation of the programme, which will compare employment outcomes for participants to a matched control group.

Employment: Autism

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent guidance has been issued to staff at Jobcentre Plus on assisting people diagnosed with autism into work; and if she will make a statement. [298151]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive, Mel Groves. I have asked him to reply to the hon. member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about what recent guidance has been issued to staff at Jobcentre Plus on assisting people diagnosed with autism into work. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus policy is to develop its staff in the skills required to support a range of customers and to respect their individual needs, including those related autism. This approach ensures that they are equipped to deal with a diverse set of circumstances whilst treating customers as individuals. Skilled employment advisors look at the interaction between the person, the job and the person's ability. Advisors ensure that job goals relate to the person's abilities and that relevant solutions are identified in order to overcome any barriers a customer might face in a particular job.

Jobcentre Plus advisors are introduced to "guide notes" as part of their training, which include background information on a number of conditions, including autism, the implications for interviews and how to use questioning techniques in order to support customers. Disability Employment Advisors focus on customers that need more extensive support and receive further levels of skills training appropriate to their customers, including skills practice in interviewing an autistic person to drive home learning points.

In May 2009, Jobcentre Plus advisors were issued with a reminder, specifically about the information on autism that is held on our intranet site, to help reinforce the learning they have already undertaken to assist people with autism into work. Advisors were also reminded that Access to Work may be able to support autistic customers who are starting a job, by providing a job coach for a short period, or autism awareness training to the customer's colleagues. We are currently reviewing how Access to Work support can be improved and any resulting changes will benefit autistic people.

Jobcentre Plus has also recently engaged with two autism telephone tutorials held by the Employers Forum on Disability. The events were publicised on our business intranet site. Staff were encouraged to participate and actively did so. Events such as these help to develop an even greater understanding of autism and the issues related to employment.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps she is taking to help people diagnosed with autism into employment; and if she will make a statement. [298152]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* We are fully committed to supporting disabled people, including those diagnosed with autism, to find suitable, sustainable work.

Disability employment advisors can advise a customer about suitable job opportunities and specialised support available to disabled people. If necessary they can also advocate on a customer's behalf (by negotiating with employers), refer customers for an occupational health assessment, and use the professional expertise of work psychologists, who specialise in working with disabled people.

Disability employment advisors also have the discretion to use job introduction scheme funding in situations where a disabled applicant is considered suitable for a post, but the employer has genuine doubts about the individual's ability to cope with the proposed job or place of work. The job introduction scheme can provide a grant to the employer towards the employment costs incurred during the first weeks of employment.

Jobcentre Plus has a number of specialist programmes that help disabled people move into paid work, some of which are only accessible through disability employment advisors. These programmes include work preparation, residential training and Workstep (a programme of supported employment).

Disabled people going into paid work may also be able to benefit from access to work, which provides practical advice and support to disabled people and their employers to help overcome work related obstacles resulting from disability. Access to work provides a system of grants which contribute towards the cost of providing support, such as a job coach for a short period to help settle an autistic customer into work. Support can also be given to the customer in the form of awareness training on autism which can be delivered to the customer's colleagues.

Jobcentre Plus staff are also provided with training in the skills required to manage a range of behaviours demonstrated by customers, covering a variety of health conditions. This approach ensures that they are equipped to deal with diverse circumstances while treating customers as individuals. Advisors look at the interaction between the person, the job and an individual's ability and ensure that job goals relate to the customer's abilities and that work solutions are sought to overcome any challenges a customer might face in a particular job.

Employment: Lone Parents

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what studies her Department has undertaken on changes in the household income of lone parents who move into work over the five year period after entering work. [298653]

Jim Knight: The Department for Work and Pensions has not looked at changes in household income specifically among lone parents entering work for the five year period after they entered employment.

Future Jobs Fund

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* social enterprises and *(c)* other third sector providers have (i) applied and (ii) qualified for money from the Future Jobs Fund since the fund was established; [296826]

(2) how many *(a)* young people and *(b)* people from other disadvantaged groups have received assistance from the Future Jobs Fund since the fund was established. [296827]

Jim Knight: The Department for Work and Pensions does not have a detailed breakdown of the sectors that have bid. The list of successful bidders to the Future Jobs Fund is available on our website at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/futurejobsfund

Many of these bids are from partnerships that plan to create jobs with a variety of organisations, in different sectors.

We will be publishing official statistics on the number of people participating in the Future Jobs Fund in spring 2010, which will include characteristics such as age, gender, ethnicity and type of benefit previously claimed. Until then these data are not available.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobs in culture and creative industries have been created through the Future Jobs Fund since its inception; and what the average *(a)* length of contract and *(b)* salary for each such job is. [299215]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 10 November 2009]:* The Government are currently working with cultural and creative sectors in order to create exciting job opportunities within the Future Jobs Fund and we also welcome bids that create apprenticeships.

At this stage the DWP does not have a detailed breakdown of the sectors that the bids seek to create jobs in. The list of successful bidders to the Future Jobs Fund is available on our website at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/futurejobsfund

Many of these bids are from partnerships that plan to create jobs with a variety of organisations, in different sectors. The jobs will, however, last for at least six months and the salary will be paid at the national minimum wage or more.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what additional funding streams were included in each successful bid proposal under the Future Jobs Fund. [297348]

Jim Knight: Not all bidders have provided details of other available funding streams within their bids in the first three bidding rounds and to retrospectively identify all the relevant funding streams would incur disproportionate costs. The current round provides a wider cross section of information of the funding streams available in support of their bids. These include:

Fairer Scotland Fund; Lottery Funding; European Social Fund; Community Cash Back Fund; Working Neighbourhood Fund; Yorkshire Forward Geographical Fund; Economic Partnership (East of England Development Agency); Premier League PFA; Nottinghamshire and Greater Nottinghamshire Single Programme; Train to Gain Fund; LSC funding; Workways Convergence Project; TVRN and the Step Ahead fund.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many *(a)* 18 to 24 years olds and *(b)* people living in deprived areas have participated in Future Jobs Fund jobs in each month since the scheme began; [297357]

(2) how many *(a)* young people aged 18 to 24 and *(b)* out of work benefit recipients in deprived areas have (i) applied for and (ii) started a job under the Future Jobs Fund in each month since the scheme began. [297358]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not currently available but will be made available in future through a statistical release covering the whole of the Young Persons Guarantee. The first publication should be ready around six months after the start of the programme and quarterly thereafter.

Information regarding ongoing progress will be reported through quarterly statistical releases in line with the Department's other employment programmes. The established process is for the first of these to be made available around six months after a new programme starts. This is to allow time for input from the UK Statistics Authority and for the information to be collected, understood, verified and reported. We will be following this approach with the Young Persons Guarantee.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many organisations which have been successful in bids under the Future Jobs Fund are from the *(a)* public, *(b)* private and *(c)* voluntary sector; [297360]

(2) how many jobs in each successful bid under the Future Jobs Fund are classified as *(a)* green jobs and *(b)* jobs in social enterprises. [297361]

Jim Knight: The Department for Work and Pensions does not have a detailed breakdown of the sectors that the bids seek to create jobs in. The list of successful bidders to the Future Jobs Fund is available on our website at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/futurejobsfund

Many of these bids are from partnerships who plan to create jobs with a variety of organisations, in different sectors.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proposals each successful bid under the Future Jobs Fund programme made on the improvement of the long-term employability of each participant. [297422]

Jim Knight: It is not possible to provide details of what each successful bidder under the Future Jobs Fund programme proposes to do to improve the long term employability of each participant. However, before receiving grant funding successful bidders must set out their plans to improve the employability of each person. Successful bidders will have to provide employability support to each individual which best suits their needs.

Examples of the types of provision of support to Future Jobs Fund employees into sustainable employment include:

Regular reviews;

Job Matching;

Basic Skills Assessment, for example, CCOS Employment Training has the Basic Skills Quality Mark, and identifying training needs;

Planned access to 'Job Clubs';

Regular advice and information on Job and Training vacancies;

Individual Training and Job Plans;

In-depth assessment of the existing skills levels of the client, including a Skills for Life Assessment;

Receiving a reference from their employer, further helping to improve their employability;

Personal adviser contact, advice and support;

Training opportunities and in work training;

Individual learning plans;

Core skills development and confidence-building;

ESOL and literacy and numeracy, where required;

Interpersonal skills development;

Monthly reviews;

Mentoring support;

Ongoing supervision;

Induction programmes to provide support to access the most appropriate placement for their skills, abilities and interests, and cover such topics as health and safety, basic work skills, confidence building and working within a team, and

Holding 1-1 meetings to identity any barriers to employment, to identify specialist support or training needs and prepare a work plan.

Housing Benefit: Selby

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of housing benefit in Selby constituency on the latest date for which information is available. [299774]

Helen Goodman: The information is not available.

Incapacity Benefit

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency have been on incapacity benefit for longer than 12 months; and how many had been transferred to incapacity benefit from jobseeker's allowance. [297142]

Jim Knight: The table shows the number of people who have been on incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance for more than 12 months in each area.

Number of people receiving incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance for longer than 12 months in February 2009

	Number
England	1,792,760
North East	130,620
Tees Valley	33,710
Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency	4,560

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10
2. Tees Valley is made up of the following local authorities:
Hartlepool
Middlesbrough
Darlington
Stockton-on-Tees
Redcar and Cleveland
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate

Information about the number of people who transferred from jobseeker's allowance and have been on incapacity benefit for longer than 12 months could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when her Department introduced *(a)* mandatory Pathways to Work interviews and *(b)* new work capability assessments for existing incapacity benefit claimants under 25 years old; and how many and what proportion of such claimants have undergone (i) mandatory Pathways to Work interviews and (ii) new Work Capability Assessments. [298779]

Jim Knight: The regulations to support mandatory work-focused interviews for existing customers aged under 25 came into force on 26 October 2009. The regulations introduce mandatory conditionality to 18 to 24-year-old existing customers who have been in receipt of incapacity benefit (or income support on the grounds of incapacity) continuously for 12 months or more in the 40 per cent. of the country (Great Britain) covered by Jobcentre Plus Pathways to work areas. These customers are required to attend a mandatory series of three work-focused interviews.

Customers in Provider-Led Pathways offices are excluded and as with Pathways generally, the mandatory requirement will not apply to personal capability assessment exempt customers.

We are not able to supply figures regarding what proportion of customers have already undergone these mandatory work-focused interviews.

Work capability assessments are currently only for new claims to employment and support allowance and not for existing incapacity benefit customers.

We plan to migrate existing incapacity benefit customers, including those aged under 25, to employment and support allowance from October 2010.

Incapacity Benefit

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the average clearance time for the processing of *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance claims has been in each month since April 2009; [297351]

(2) for what reason Jobcentre Plus performance targets for 2009-10 do not include a target for the actual average clearing time for the processing of *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance claims. [297352]

Jim Knight: The available information is in the following table.

2009

Month	*Incapacity benefit average actual clearance time (days)*
April	22.91
May	22.90
June	21.46
July	20.33
August	29.06
September	12.46

Note:
It should be noted that this is internal Jobcentre Plus Management Information and as such should only be used as an indication of actual performance.
Source:
Management Information System Programme 30.10.09

We are currently exploring whether we can develop some official statistics on processing times for employment and support allowance new claims which could be published in the near future.

We did not include incapacity benefit in the published average actual clearance time target in 2009-10 because the introduction of the new employment and support allowance meant the volumes of new incapacity benefit claims represented a diminishing aspect of our business delivery.

We did not include employment and support allowance in the published average actual clearance time targets for 2009-10 because it is a new benefit with no historical management information that could be used to inform a target level. Employment and support allowance claims will be included in the published average clearance time measure from April 2010.

Income Support: Grandparents

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate her Department has made of the number of grandparents who receive income support allowance in respect of their grandchildren. [297364]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 4 November 2009]:* The information is not available.

Jobcentre Plus

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which Jobcentre Plus offices closed in each of the last six years are under consideration for reopening; and if she will make a statement. [294034]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking which Jobcentre Plus offices closed in each of the last six years are under consideration for reopening. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I have provided this information at Annex A.

Since April 2002, when Jobcentre Plus was created by the merger of the former Employment Service and Benefits Agency, Jobcentre Plus has continued to refocus and transform the way it delivers its services. These transformation programmes have improved the quality and breadth of customer service, as well as the environment in which it is delivered. Customers no longer have to go to two separate offices—often on the same High Street—to receive help with both benefits and jobsearch. This has allowed us to rationalise our estate to provide excellent High Street coverage and a single, integrated customer facing office, at the same time reducing cost to the tax payer.

Our approach to closure of a customer-facing Jobcentre is one that takes into account a range of issues, for example, the impact closure may have on customer service, and whether the work and staff can be relocated. When we are looking to withdraw our services from a location we are committed to full consultation with our customers, partner organisations, Trade Unions, staff, and local Members of Parliament.

The great majority of our services (in common with most large, modern organisations) are now delivered through the telephone and internet. For example, to give customers more convenient access we have around half-a-million vacancies on-line at any time (our website receives close to one million job searches every working day), and new claims to benefit are predominantly taken by telephone with some taken on-line. However, Jobcentres continue to provide an essential service—especially to those customers most in need of tailored help.

In addition to our network of modernised Jobcentres, we aim to make our services accessible to customers by providing a range of support through outreach, often delivering advisory and other support on Partner's premises. That is particularly important in locations where maintaining a Jobcentre could not be justified. Typically, such services can be delivered in partnership with Children's Centres, or on Local Authority premises, or in conjunction with one of our Welfare to Work Providers.

Jobcentre Plus Customer Service Directors have reviewed their existing service delivery arrangements in meeting the challenge of the current economic climate, taking into account the planned welfare reform changes for the next two to three years. This review took into account the latest known information on the expected increase in business and customer volumes. This exercise has identified that some Jobcentre Plus offices currently face capacity pressures. These pressures will be met through a range of solutions.

We have embarked on a programme of converting or extending our existing buildings where necessary, and widening our network of outreach facilities to make our services more accessible to customers. We are supplementing those measures by operating extended opening hours in some locations where the need for this is identified locally. This includes some offices opening to the public on Saturday.

This programme is primarily focused on those buildings where we provide a face to face service for members of the public, but we are also implementing solutions across our network of Benefit Delivery Centres and Contact Centres to ensure they are equipped to meet any capacity challenge.

The vast majority of sites affected have sufficient internal space which could be made available to enable capacity increases. The work to be carried out is of a temporary nature to ensure Jobcentre Plus has the flexibility to review the estate requirement in future.

We only acquire new temporary space where all other measures are insufficient and Jobcentre Plus presence in these buildings will be clearly badged as temporary facilities. The sites listed in Annex A are being considered for temporary reoccupation because no suitable alternatives exist.

Annex A: Jobcentre Plus offices previously open to the public and under consideration for temporary reoccupation

Region	*Location*
London	Broadway, Bexleyheath
North West	Great Moor Street, Bolton
Scotland	Somervell Street, Cambuslang
West Midlands	Erdington, Birmingham
West Midlands	Bristol Road, South Northfield, Birmingham
West Midlands	Sheriff's Court, Coventry

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus staff were employed in the ceremonial county of Hampshire, broken down by smallest possible local authority level in each of the last five years. [299582]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Jobcentre Plus staff were employed in the ceremonial County of Hampshire, broken down by smallest possible local authority level in each region in each of the last five years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus structure is not aligned with county or local authority level boundaries. The following table therefore provides the number of Jobcentre Plus full-time equivalents employed in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Jobcentre Plus geographical boundary. Staffing information broken down to this level is only available back to 2006-07.

Staff in post in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Jobcentre Plus geographical boundary, March 2007 to September 2009

	Number
March 2007	1,400
March 2008	1,349
March 2009	1,470
September 2009	1,816

Source: Jobcentre Plus Resource Management System.

Jobcentre Plus: Training

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training is provided to Jobcentre Plus staff to ensure autistic service users receive fair access to their services; and what measures are in place to assess the effectiveness of such training. [293217]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive, Mel Groves. I have asked him to reply to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking: what training is provided to Jobcentre Plus staff to ensure autistic service users receive fair access to their services; and what measures are in place to assess the effectiveness of such training. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus is committed to supporting disabled people, including people with autism. To help staff understand and meet the needs of disabled customers, training is provided which promotes a whole team approach. Diversity and Equality Awareness for Excellent Customer Service is part of the foundation learning and provides staff with a general awareness of disability, disability issues and the responsibilities of Jobcentre Plus. It also provides an understanding of specialists such as Disability Employment Advisors, Incapacity Benefit Personal Advisors, Work Psychologists and Access to Work Advisors. This allows staff to access guidance and make appropriate referrals and also ensures customers receive a supportive, streamlined and professional service.

The learning programme for Jobcentre Plus Advisors raises awareness of a customer's personal circumstances and the impact this may have on their ability to move into sustainable employment. Advisors are signposted to guidance which includes background information on a number of conditions, the implications for interviews and how to use questioning techniques in order to support customers. The performance of advisors is measured through the regular completion of the Quality Assessment Framework during interviews. Advisors explore the customer's situation and circumstances as they relate to the world of work, identify any specialist support required and, where appropriate, advocate on behalf of the customer or seek additional support from specialist colleagues or external partners.

All Jobcentres have access to Disability Employment Advisors, who focus on customers who need more extensive support. They receive further training (which includes practice interviewing customers with autism), and can seek help from Work Psychologists to assist them in supporting customers.

The Employers' Forum on Disability has been running telephone tutorials on autism and in order to encourage staff to take advantage of this learning opportunity these events were publicised on the Jobcentre Plus intranet site (the organisation's mainstream communication method). Such training helps staff develop an even greater understanding of autism and the issues related to employment.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to secure employment for those in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in Coventry. [298306]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 9 November 2009]*: Jobcentre Plus is equipped to offer advice to everyone who is looking for work. While most people find work relatively quickly and need only a little support from Jobcentre Plus others will require far more help. This is provided through a structured process of regular jobsearch reviews and support from our personal advisers on opportunities to help overcome things that may be making it harder to find work.

As part of this, we have enhanced the package of support provided to people with extra support prior to redundancy, when they are newly unemployed, and at the six and 12 month points of their claim including a subsidy for employers, voluntary work and help to set up a business. For customers facing redundancy we have increased funding for the Rapid Response Service which is delivered in conjunction with partner organisations in Coventry and Warwickshire. This ensures that local resources are clearly targeted and includes areas such as skills assessments and short training as well as jobsearch programmes to help people move quickly into employment and training.

To coincide with the national launch of "Backing Young Britain" in July this year Jobcentre Plus in Coventry engaged with 25 key local employers, partners and stakeholders to secure their personal commitment to offering jobs, apprenticeships, work trials, work experience, internships and mentoring advice. We have also launched the Future Jobs Fund, worth around £1 billion, which aims to create at least 100,000 new jobs for those aged 18-24 nationally. A further 50,000 jobs will be created in areas of high unemployment and all customers, irrespective of their age, will be eligible.

In Coventry 29 per cent. of jobseeker's allowance customers are aged between 18-24 years old. There have been a wide range of organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors who have made successful bids. To date approximately 8,000 jobs have been identified in the West Midlands.

In October 2009, we also introduced the flexible new deal. The flexible new deal is delivered by contracted service providers working in partnership with Jobcentre Plus. In Coventry and Warwickshire these are Serco and Pertemps.

Within the 12 months of starting on flexible new deal, jobseekers will undertake a minimum of four weeks of either full-time employment or continuous mandatory full time work-related activity. Jobcentre Plus will deliver early stages of the regime (before customers are referred to a provider), pay benefits and maintain contact with the customer through fortnightly signing. The flexible new deal gives providers the flexibility to deliver a more personalised and tailored service to the individual employment and skills needs of long-term jobseekers.

Jobcentre Plus in Coventry is working closely with a range of employers in both the public and private sectors in securing local employment partnerships (LEPS). LEPs are a key tool in supporting people from disadvantaged communities back into work. Jobcentre Plus work closely with customers, employers and partners to tailor a programme to ensure that individuals are job ready. Coventry city council is one of the leading public sector LEP recruiters and the HSBC processing centre in Coventry recently won the West Midlands 2009 LEP "Unlocking Talent" award.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Employment Schemes

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 160W, on jobseeker's allowance: employment schemes, how many and what proportion of people taking part in the work trials in each month secured a job with the same employer. [297382]

Jim Knight: The table repeats the information in the previous reply about participation in work trials, but with columns added to show the number of people who found actual employment with the work trial employer:

Duration of completed work trials by jobseeker's allowance customers April 2009 to September 2009

	0-7 days duration			8-21 days duration			22+ days duration		
Month	*Total*	*Employed*	*Percentage*	*Total*	*Employed*	*Percentage*	*Total*	*Employed*	*Percentage*
April	587	449	76	350	285	81	52	37	71

Duration of completed work trials by jobseeker's allowance customers April 2009 to September 2009

	0-7 days duration			8-21 days duration			22+ days duration		
Month	Total	Employed	Percentage	Total	Employed	Percentage	Total	Employed	Percentage
May	974	631	65	471	365	77	74	50	68
June	847	608	72	386	289	75	61	38	62
July	1,234	813	66	515	385	75	94	68	72
August	867	571	66	364	269	74	89	67	75
September	995	609	61	444	333	75	99	66	67

Note:
The totals of the in-month figures are lower than the cumulative number of work trials completed. This is because the in-month figures are a snapshot taken on a particular date in the month, whereas the cumulative total figure reflects subsequent work trials that took place.
Source:
DWP Management Information

Jobseeker's Allowance: Work Experience

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps Jobcentre Plus takes to provide access to work experience for jobseeker's allowance claimants aged *(a)* between 16 and 24 years and *(b)* 25 years and over when they have been claiming the allowance for (i) less than six months and (ii) between six and 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [illegible]

Jim Knight: There are a number of ways in which someone receiving jobseeker's allowance can undertake work experience.

As part of the Backing Young Britain measures announced on 29 July 2009, we will be introducing arrangements early next year to make two-week work experience opportunities available to jobseekers aged 18 to 21 who have been on jobseeker's allowance for three months. They will remain entitled to jobseeker's allowance. We also committed as part of Backing Young Britain to increase the number of graduate and non-graduate internships available to young people, with 10,000 internship and work experience opportunities for non-graduates, and a total of 20,000 graduate internships.

The Budget announced a guaranteed offer of a job, work-focused training, or meaningful activity to all 18 to 24-year-olds before they have reached the 12 month stage of their claim to jobseeker's allowance. The substantial new work experience opportunity will be available through the introduction of the Community Task Force, in early 2010. Under the Six-Month Offer in place since April 2009 for all jobseekers reaching six months receipt of jobseeker's allowance there is a voluntary work placement option.

Under the mandatory New Deals and Flexible New Deal work experience is part of the activity that all jobseekers must undertake at the appointed stage of their claim. For those aged 18 to 24 entering New Deal for Young People mandatory work experience will begin after 10 months of unemployment. For those entering New Deal 25 Plus mandatory work experience commences after about 21 months. In Flexible New Deal there is no age distinction and work experience can begin at the outset of the provision as part of personalised support.

Jobseeker's allowance is normally payable to people aged 18 and over, up to state pension age. In exceptional circumstances, people aged 16 and 17 may receive jobseeker's allowance but along with other young people aged 16 to 19 they will usually be supported by Connexions in England and its equivalents in Scotland and Wales.

Jobseekers Allowance: Young People

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of people under 24 years old claiming jobseeker's allowance who have *(a)* never worked, *(b)* never had a full-time job and *(c)* not worked for more than six months since reaching the age of 18; and if she will make a statement. [illegible]

Jim Knight: The preferred method for reporting on the number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance is the Jobcentre Plus Administrative System, which provides the source for the official claimant count figures published by the Office for National Statistics each month in the Labour Market Statistical Bulletin. This shows that in September 2009 there were 490,800 18 to 24-year-olds claiming jobseeker's allowance in the UK.

Administrative records do not contain information on the claimants' employment history. The available information about those jobseeker's allowance claimants who have never worked is contained in the Labour Force Survey; the April-June 2009 survey shows that 30 per cent. of 16 to 23-year-olds claiming jobseeker's allowance had never had a paid job. Of these, a small number, about 3 per cent. were in full-time education.

In addition, further analysis shows that the majority of this group who have never worked are concentrated towards the younger ages within the range. Two-thirds of the 16 to 23-year-olds claiming JSA who have never had a paid job are 20-years-old or younger.

Information is not available on those who have never had a full-time job, or those who have not worked for more than six months since reaching the age of 18.

Local Employment Partnerships

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps she expects local employment partnerships to take to support *(a)* older workers, *(b)* those with mental health disorders, *(c)* those with alcohol-related problems and *(d)* those addicted to drugs. [illegible]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 2 November 2009]*: Through Local Employment Partnerships, over 330,000 people have moved into work with over 40,000 employers since September 2007. Local Employment Partnerships are agreements between the Government through Jobcentre Plus and its partners to work with employers to help all those disadvantaged in the labour market move from benefit into work. Jobcentre Plus uses specific initiatives to help disadvantaged people move into and stay in work including Age Positive for older workers and Access to Work for people with a health condition. We will shortly pilot extra support for problem drug users.

This range of support helps people with specific issues to prepare for work in order that they are better placed to apply for vacancies with employers recruiting through Local Employment Partnerships.

Local Housing Allowance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average excess payment is to claimants of local housing allowance. [illegible]

Helen Goodman: This information is not available.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she intends to reply to the letter to her dated 29 September 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. Nazia Aftab. [illegible]

Jim Knight: A reply was sent to my right hon. Friend on 11 November 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to reply to the letter of 21 September 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr C. Wilcock. [illegible]

Helen Goodman: A reply was sent to my right hon. Friend on 9 November 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to reply to the letter of 15 September 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. P. Newton. [illegible]

Helen Goodman: A reply was sent to my right hon. Friend on 9 November 2009.

New Deal Schemes

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to ensure the local relevance of help and advice given to jobseekers under the Flexible New Deal programme; and if she will make a statement. [illegible]

Jim Knight: The key aim of Flexible New Deal is to help long-term unemployed people prepare for, find and remain in work. Flexible New Deal providers have been given the flexibility to deliver a range of support based on the needs of individuals who are referred to them.

DWP has an ongoing programme of performance monitoring and improvement activity and in addition, the quality of services will be monitored through external inspection of the Flexible New Deal supplier (Ofsted in England, Estyn in Wales and HMIe in Scotland). Results will be published and will inform the performance rating of the supplier, taking into account the quality of service as well as performance in terms of job outcomes and sustained job outcomes.

In 10 of the 14 Flexible New Deal areas, two suppliers are contracted to deliver Flexible New Deal services to customers. From October 2010 customers will have the right to choose the supplier offering the service best suited to their needs, using information about the support available and performance ratings of the Flexible New Deal suppliers. From April 2011, better performing providers in customer choice areas could gain market share.

The funding system is performance based, with the majority of the contract value allocated for outcome payments to the supplier when a jobseeker enters work that lasts 13 weeks and then again at 26 weeks. DWP believes that this range of measures provides the correct balance to ensure relevant and effective services are delivered to Flexible New Deal customers.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps are being taken under the Flexible New Deal programme to get people into work lasting 12 months or more; and if she will make a statement. [298190]

Jim Knight: The key aim of Flexible New Deal is to help long-term unemployed people prepare for, find and remain in work. Flexible New Deal suppliers will work with each customer to decide the best way to help them into sustained employment, and will offer support tailored to the needs of the individual.

The funding system is performance based, with the majority of the contract value allocated for outcome payments to the provider when a jobseeker enters work that lasts 13 weeks and then again at 26 weeks. DWP believes that this provides the correct balance between supplier incentives and value for money. After a person has been employed for 26 out of the previous 30 weeks they are more likely to remain in a job in the longer term.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of people who have been unemployed for 12 months or more and who have not been referred to the flexible New Deal scheme. [299017]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 10 November 2009]:* The Flexible New Deal service started in Phase One areas in October. To bridge the gap for existing jobseeker's allowance customers at April 2009, and take account of the former New Deal 25 Plus customers in these areas being referred to Flexible New Deal providers earlier, revised contractual arrangements were agreed with existing New Deal (including Private Sector-led) and Employment Zone providers.

Due to these changes some of the former New Deal 25 Plus customers in these areas who did not start with the New Deal provider will have been unemployed for more than 12 months by the time they are referred to the provider under the Flexible New Deal. However they will have also received more intensive support from Jobcentre Plus personal advisers for a period of six months.

All new jobseeker's allowance customers will be referred to the Flexible New Deal providers on reaching 12 months unemployment, or earlier in certain circumstances.

For customers in Flexible New Deal Phase Two areas, existing New Deal and Employment Zone contracts will continue. They will have access to the additional support for jobseekers at six months. Some customers may also be able to access additional support under the Young Persons Guarantee provision. Customers over age 25 will receive support from Jobcentre Plus until they become eligible for the existing New Deal 25 Plus when they have been receiving jobseeker's allowance for 18 months.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been referred to the flexible New Deal scheme since 6 October 2009. [299018]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 10 November 2009]:* The Flexible New Deal started on 5 October 2009 and data are only starting to feed through. The Department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we are able to publish statistics that meet high quality standards at the earliest opportunity. We intend to publish headline Official Statistics from early 2010.

New Deal Schemes: Bedfordshire

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged between 18 and 24 years old resident in Mid Bedfordshire constituency have received assistance under the New Deal since 2003; and how many such people have moved into employment. [295418]

Jim Knight: There have been 410 starters (spells) on the New Deal for Young People in the Mid Bedfordshire parliamentary constituency since January 2003. The following table shows the immediate destination of those who have left New Deal.

Destination	*Number*
Employment	130
Employment and Benefits	110
Other (including unknown)	150

Notes:
1. Latest data on starters are to May 2009 and latest data on leavers is to February 2009.
2. Spells: An individual may have more than one spell on New Deal for Young People.
3. Immediate destination on leaving is measured within two weeks of leaving New Deal, using information from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study. People recorded as leaving to Employment and Benefits have evidence of both employment and have an active benefit.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
5. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

New Deal Schemes: Young People

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many 18 year olds with a previous history of not being in employment, education or training entered the New Deal early on a *(a)* voluntary basis since April 2008 and *(b)* a mandatory basis since April 2009. [298724]

Jim Knight: The data are unavailable.

Occupational Pensions

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many occupational pension schemes have been fully wound up since 1997; how many are in the process of winding up; and what the size of the membership of schemes in each such category was in each year since 1997. [283547]

Angela Eagle: In 2008, there were a total of over 27 million members in occupational pensions schemes. Government are committed to helping scheme sponsors through this difficult time. We will continue to work with employers and the pensions industry to see how we can help. We are also taking forward reforms which will extend the opportunity of workplace pension saving to millions, many for the first time. From 2012 all eligible workers will be automatically enrolled into a workplace pension scheme resulting in between six to nine million people newly participating or saving more in workplace pensions.

Information is not available in the format requested. The available information is presented as follows and was provided by the Pensions Regulator:

(a) The number of schemes in the UK that have wound up for a variety of reasons since 2 April 1997 is 99,589 (8,484 defined benefit and 91,105 defined contribution).

(b) The number of schemes that have entered winding up status since 2 April 1997 and have not yet completed the process is 7,238 (1,094 defined benefit and 6,144 defined contribution). The total membership of these schemes is 325,586 (219,708 defined benefit and 105,878 defined contribution).

Notes:

1. The data supplied by the Pensions Regulator are current as at 4 November 2009. They have been enhanced and updated with information received via the new scheme returns, which includes new data for small defined contribution schemes.

2. A wound up scheme is one which has notified the Pensions Regulator that it has completed winding up procedures. In some cases schemes notify the Pensions Regulator that they have completed winding up procedures without having previously notified the Regulator that they have commenced winding up procedures.

3. A winding up scheme is one which has notified the Pensions Regulator that it has commenced winding up procedures.

4. Total membership includes deferred and pensioner members. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of these numbers.

Pension Credit: Selby

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of pension credit in Selby constituency on the latest date for which information is available. [299769]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is in the following table.

Pension credit caseload February 2009

	Selby parliamentary constituency
Households in receipt of pension credit	3,370
Individual beneficiaries of pension credit	4,160

Notes:
1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a partner.
3. Number of beneficiaries—pension credit is claimed on a household basis and therefore the number of people that pension credit helps is the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are also claiming.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Pensioners: Poverty

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of pensioners have been living in absolute poverty in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* the UK in each year since 2006. [298351]

Angela Eagle: I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer I gave on 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 166-67W.

The answer was published in *Hansard* at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091026/text/91026w0035.htm#09102640000032

Self-employed: Government Assistance

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what additional funding has been allocated to the provision of self-employment support under the six month offer; [291649]

(2) what *(a)* grants and *(b)* other capital funding will be available to jobseekers taking up the offer of self-employment support under the Six Month Offer. [291650]

Jim Knight: Under the Six Month Offer, there are two elements to the help on offer to people who want to move into self-employment or start a business. To provide financial support during the early weeks of trading, customers can claim a self-employment credit paid at a rate of £50 a week for up to 16 weeks. This is payable once the customer ceases claiming jobseeker's allowance and takes up self-employment.

We are also giving additional funds to Business Link Providers in England, Flexible Support for Business in Wales, and Training for Work in Scotland to provide intensive self-employment and business start-up support and advice for those who need it before they leave benefit. This help can extend into the first weeks of trading, if required.

The Six Month Offer does not provide capital grants to help with initial business start-up costs. However, as with any other person setting up a new business, those eligible for the Six Month Offer will be able to apply for the relevant grants that are available in each country. For example, in England, decisions about what business support is available in each region is decided by the regional development agencies. The full range of publicly funded support in England can be found in the Solutions for Business portfolio on the Business Link website.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have received self-employment credit in each month since April 2009. [297355]

Jim Knight: The information requested on the number of people who have received the self-employment credit is shown in the following table. The latest figures available are for July 2009.

2009	*Number of people receiving self-employment credit*
April	30
May	190
June	460
July	780

Notes:
1. Figures above 10 are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Months are calendar months.
Source:
DWP research at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/6month_offer.asp

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate her Department has made of the average unit cost of *(a)* job broking and *(b)* benefit processing for (i) incapacity benefit, (ii) employment and support allowance and *(c)* jobseeker's allowance in each year since 2004-05. [290724]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 9 September 2009]*: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to respond to your question asking what estimate her Department has made of the average unit cost of *(a)* job broking and *(b)* benefit processing for (i) incapacity benefit, (ii) employment and support allowance and *(c)* jobseeker's allowance in each year since 2004-05. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

It is not possible to provide an average unit cost for job broking as not all job broking costs have a measurable volume. The requested benefit processing unit costs for (i) incapacity benefit (IB) is in the table below. ESA started in October 2008 and therefore the data for ESA in 2008-9 is not included as the data is not available for the full year.

£

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
IB claims processing	42	41	38	32	30

For jobseeker's allowance, the benefit processing unit costs in each year were:

£

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Jobseekers allowance claims processing	22	21	20	17	13

Source:
DWP/Jobcentre Plus Finance

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* income support and *(c)* incapacity benefit in (i) England and (ii) North East Cambridgeshire in each of the last 15 years; and if she will make a statement. [291001]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 14 September 2009]*: The available information is in the following tables.

Jobseeker's allowance claimants

	England	North East Cambridgeshire parliamentary constituency
July		
1997	1,276,655	2,077
1998	1,089,472	1,726
1999	1,007,767	1,636
2000	866,005	1,173
2001	762,269	1,002
2002	764,590	1,079
2003	760,468	1,032
2004	677,086	1,056
2005	711,708	1,314
2006	796,354	1,343
2007	713,363	1,270
2008	722,097	1,610
2009	1,311,098	2,575

Notes:
1. Data are un-rounded.
2. Data are published at:
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk
3. Jobseeker's allowance was introduced from October 1996.
Source:
100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems.

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants

	England	North East Cambridgeshire parliamentary constituency
February		
1996	2,226,700	3,600
1997	2,228,100	3,700
1998	2,214,600	3,600
1999	2,168,700	3,500
2000	2,156,060	3,830
2001	2,214,930	4,020
2002	2,217,260	4,080
2003	2,247,980	4,230
2004	2,256,210	4,340
2005	2,246,460	4,450
2006	2,209,710	4,600
2007	2,180,870	4,670
2008	2,151,910	4,700
2009	2,082,400	4,490

Notes:
1. Incapacity benefit replaced sickness benefit and invalidity benefit from April 1995.
2. Figures for February 1996 to February 1999 are based on 5 per cent. data and have been uprated in line with 100 per cent. WPLS totals.
3. Data for 1996 to 1999 have been rounded to the nearest 100.
4. February 2000 to February 2009 are based on 100 per cent. WPLS data.
5. Data for 2000 to 2009 have been rounded to the nearest 10.
6. These data do not include claimants of employment and support allowance introduced from October 2008.
7. Data from 2000 are published at:
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk
8. Includes incapacity benefit credits only cases. *Source:* DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample data.
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS.

Income support claimants

	England	North East Cambridgeshire parliamentary constituency
February		
1997	1,887,500	2,900
1998	1,868,500	2,800
1999	1,845,500	2,800
2000	1,877,790	3,010
2001	1,890,930	3,090
2002	1,876,410	3,140
2003	1,854,670	3,090
2004	1,848,290	3,060
2005	1,798,210	3,080
2006	1,775,950	3,140
2007	1,780,320	3,330
2008	1,760,260	3,340
2009	1,713,480	3,340

Notes:
1. From October 1996 jobseeker's allowance replaced income support for unemployed people, therefore for consistency income support figures prior to this date have not been included.
2. Figures for February 1997 to February 1999 are based on 5 per cent. data and have been uprated in line with 100 per cent. WPLS totals.
3. Data for 1997 to 1999 have been rounded to the nearest 100.
4. February 2000 to February 2009 are based on 100 per cent. WPLS data.
5. Data for 2000 to 2009 have been rounded to the nearest 10.
6. Due to the introduction of pension credit in October 2003, it is standard practice to exclude minimum income guarantee claimants in all figures produced.
7. Data from 2000 are published at:
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk
Source: DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample data. DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the cost to her Department of changing its main benefit claim 0845 telephone numbers to 0300 numbers. [294045]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 19 October 2009]:* The Department uses 0800 numbers for its main benefit claims, and not 0845 numbers, and the Department's policy is that calls to 0800 numbers should be free. The Department has not therefore estimated the costs of changing its 0800 main benefits claims numbers to 0300 numbers.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claiming *(a)* incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance and *(c)* income support have been in receipt of that benefit for (i) between five and nine, (ii) between 10 and 11 and (iii) 12 years or over. [297866]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the following table.

Numbers claiming incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance; jobseeker's allowance; or income support, by duration of claim, as at February 2009: Great Britain

	Five to nine years	10 to 11 years	12 years and over
All	655,710	117,600	738,330
Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance	501,310	94,040	640,080
Jobseeker's allowance	3,250	490	390
Other income support	151,150	23,070	112,020

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. For the purposes of presenting the statistics in this table, benefits are arranged hierarchically and claimants are assigned to the topmost benefit which they receive:
(i) Jobseeker's Allowance—Claimant of Jobseeker's Allowance.
(ii) Incapacity Benefits—Claimant of either Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance.
(iii) Other Income Support—Income support claimants who are not also in receipt of Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research her Department has undertaken on couples known as Living Apart Together and its effect on *(a)* numbers of benefit claims, *(b)* amount of benefits claimed and *(c)* incentives to work. [298648]

Jim Knight: The Department regularly undertakes research on customer behaviour and demographic trends to inform its policy making. The Department has not carried out research as to how Living Apart Together would affect the number of benefit claims, amounts of benefits, or work incentives.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many convictions for benefits fraud there have been in the last five years. [299305]

Jim Knight: The available information for both Department for Work and Pensions and local authority administered benefits is provided in the following tables. Information on local authority convictions is not yet available for 2008-09.

Department for Work and Pensions administered benefits

	Number of convictions for benefit fraud offences
2004-05	9,219
2005-06	8,740
2006-07	6,861
2007-08	7,745
2008-09	6,700

Sources:

1. Conviction data for England & Wales are provided by DWP/DH Legal Group.

2. Conviction data for Scotland from Fraud Information by Sector & Fraud Referral and Intervention Management System.

Local authority administered benefits

	Number of convictions for benefit fraud offences
2003-04	3,747
2004-05	4,688
2005-06	6,234
2006-07	5,860
2007-08	6,493

Notes:

1. The decision to prosecute is taken by the appropriate local authority.

2. Figures from HOBOD are subject to revision when new or revised data are received from local authorities and uploaded by the Department.

Source:

Housing Benefit Operational Database (HOBOD) using local authority administrative returns.

Social Security Benefits: Greater London

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have received Upfront benefit costs in London since the provision was introduced. [298864]

Helen Goodman: To September 2009, 250 individuals in London have received a payment from the Upfront Childcare Fund.

The Upfront Childcare Fund was trialled in the north and north-east London district (excluding Employment Zone locations) from 28 January 2008. Since April 2008, the Upfront Childcare Fund has been available to qualifying lone parents in the five remaining London districts.

Social Security Benefits: Inverness

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency there were in receipt of each type of benefit in 2008. [297821]

Jim Knight: The available information is in the table.

Recipients of benefits in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey parliamentary constituency by statistical group, November 2008

	Number
Jobseeker	1,160
Employment and support allowance and incapacity benefits	4,210
Lone parent	770
Carer's allowance	1,060
Others on income-related benefit	3,700
Disabled	3,230
Bereaved	210
Receiving state pension only	12,640
Total	26,970

Notes:

1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

3. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.

4. Case load figures for attendance allowance, carer's allowance and disability living allowance include those cases with entitlement but where payment is currently suspended (for example, because of an extended stay in hospital or an overlapping benefit).

5. Statistical group is a hierarchical variable. A person who fits into more than one category will only appear in the top-most one for which they are eligible. For example, a claimant of disability living allowance and jobseeker's allowance would appear in "Jobseeker", not in "Disabled".

6. From November 2008, the "incapacity benefits group" includes employment and support allowance. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008. Prior to this, the "incapacity benefits group" referred to claimants of incapacity benefit (including credits only) or severe disablement allowance including people claiming income support on the grounds of incapacity.

7. These statistics are published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Social Security Benefits: Young People

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many 18 to 21 year-olds in England and Wales received benefits in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [295831]

Jim Knight: The available information is in the following tables.

Number of 18 to 21 year-olds in England and Wales receiving all benefits

February 2007

		Statistical Group						
	All	*Job Seeker*	*Incapacity benefits*	*Lone Parent*	*Carer*	*Others on income related benefit*	*Disabled*	*Bereaved*
England	326,770	153,870	63,750	63,940	5,910	17,570	21,720	—
Wales	24,140	10,920	5,630	4,520	480	1,040	1,550	—

February 2008

	Statistical Group							
	All	*Job Seeker*	*Incapacity benefits*	*Lone Parent*	*Carer*	*Others on income related benefit*	*Disabled*	*Bereaved*
England	315,010	138,150	63,410	62,780	6,170	19,210	25,290	10
Wales	23,600	10,390	5,480	4,470	510	990	1,750	—

February 2009

	Statistical Group							
	All	*Job Seeker*	*Incapacity benefits*	*Lone Parent*	*Carer*	*Others on income related benefit*	*Disabled*	*Bereaved*
England	413,040	229,400	62,700	64,530	6,810	21,100	28,490	—
Wales	31,360	17,620	5,500	4,710	570	970	1,990	—

Notes:

1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. '—' denotes nil or negligible.
3. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
4. Statistical Group is a hierarchical variable. A person who fits into more than one category will only appear in the top-most one for which they are eligible. For example a claimant of Disability Living Allowance and Jobseekers Allowance would appear in "Job Seeker", not in "Disabled". This is not an exhaustive list of benefits and does not include benefits such as child tax credits etc. only the ones that appear in the following list

Jobseekers: Claimant of Jobseeker's Allowance.
Incapacity Benefits are recipients of Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance (also includes Disability Living Allowance cases where the claimant is also in receipt of Employment Support Allowance).
Lone Parent: Claimants of Income Support (IS) with a child under 16 and no partner. Carer: Claimants of Carer's Allowance.
Other on Income Related Benefit: Claimants of other IS (including IS Disability Premium).
Disabled: Claimants of Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance or Industrial Injuries benefits.
Bereaved: Claimants of Widow's Benefit, Bereavement Benefit or Industrial Death Benefit.
5. Figures for February 2009 include Employment Support Allowance, which was introduced in October 2008 for new claimants.
Source:
Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS)

Tribunals Services: Employment Support Allowance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding has been allocated to the Tribunals Service to process employment support allowance appeals in 2009-10; and how much has been spent for this purpose in that year. [293043]

Jonathan Shaw: In 2009-10, the Department for Work and Pensions has transferred £3,996,291 to the Tribunals Service to process appeals in relation to employment and support allowance.

DWP does not hold records of in year expenditure by the Tribunals Service, and this could be identified only at disproportionate cost.

Unemployment Benefits

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many former claimants of jobseeker's allowance have moved on to *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* a training allowance, *(c)* the self employment credit and *(d)* a Future Jobs Fund job in each month of the last two years. [297354]

Jim Knight: Data on people who flow off jobseeker's allowance on to pension credit are not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The information requested on people who have flowed off jobseeker's allowance on to training allowance in each month of the last two years is given in the following table.

Jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants who have flowed off JSA on to Government supported training schemes in each month of the past two years

	Number
2007	
October	14,410
November	14,910
December	19,445
2008	
January	8,460
February	23,180
March	16,600
April	13,890
May	15,495
June	19,205
July	16,135
August	18,850
September	14,050
October	15,215
November	19,850
December	16,875
2009	
January	9,315
February	24,890

Jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants who have flowed off JSA on to Government supported training schemes in each month of the past two years

	Number
March	19,665
April	20,220
May	22,720
June	20,680
July	21,870
August	18,415
September	12,205

Notes:
1. Data are rounded to the nearest five.
2. This information is published on the Nomis website at: www.nomisweb.co.uk
3. The percentage of people leaving with an unknown destination recorded has increased over the last 10 years. This is because the completion levels of the JSA40 (forms filled in by people leaving JSA) have decreased over this period. This should be taken into account when interpreting these statistics, as many of these 'unknown' leavers will have moved into employment or other benefits.

Source:
Count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (computer held cases only).

The information requested on the number of people who have flowed off jobseeker's allowance to receive the self-employment credit is shown in the following table. Self-employment credit was introduced from April 2009 and the latest figures available are for July 2009.

2009	*Number of people receiving self-employment credit*
April	30
May	190
June	460
July	780

Notes:
1. Figures above 10 are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Months are calendar months.

Source:
DWP research at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/6month_offer.asp

The information requested on people who have flowed off jobseeker's allowance into a Future Jobs Fund job is not available.

Unemployment: Coatbridge

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps her Department has taken to reduce levels of unemployment in Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill constituency. [296525]

Jim Knight: Jobcentre Plus has recruited 140 new staff in Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire district on fixed term appointments to deal with the rising number of customers claiming jobseeker's allowance and to support these customers back into work as quickly as possible.

In addition, we have quadrupled the funds for the Rapid Response Service from £3 million in 2008-09 to £6 million and to £12 million in 2009-10 and 2010-11, extending the service into all areas affected by large scale redundancies or cumulative redundancies.

Jobcentre Plus offers pre-unemployment assistance and Partnership Action for Continuing Employment (PACE) redundancy support. Lanarkshire has been heavily hit by redundancies and there have been numerous companies supported from February 2008 to date, including 16 companies in July and August alone.

For the newly unemployed, we have significantly increased funding to maintain and increase support through Jobcentre Plus. As well as help and advice to find a new job and access to thousands of vacancies, the newly unemployed now have access to help to meet expenses involved in finding work through the Adviser Discretionary Fund and help to find work through local employment partnerships.

Everyone reaching six months unemployed from 6 April onwards will receive significant extra support from Jobcentre Plus employment advisers.

This new package of support will involve extended meetings every four weeks or so to discuss the best strategies for finding work, including access to recruitment subsidies, new training places, volunteering and help to take up self-employment.

The six-month-unemployed employer subsidy of £1,000 is designed to help improve the job prospects of customers who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months or more. All eligible customers in the constituency area are being issued with the employer subsidy voucher to self-market at any interviews they may attend. Employers are being marketed extensively to alert them to the Recruitment Subsidy which, for eligible customers, attracts further funding for training.

Flexible new deal was launched in Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire on 5 October. Flexible new deal is designed to ensure a unified approach for all jobseekers, whatever their age, skills or barriers to work. At the 12 month stage of unemployment customers receive more flexible and personalised help, which is delivered by contracted providers, dependent on customer needs and local labour market requirements.

The £1 billion Future Jobs Fund, part of the Young Persons Guarantee announced in the Budget, will create new jobs for the long-term unemployed, particularly young adults and those in unemployment hotspots. This initiative will create 150,000 jobs of which 100,000 are targeted at young adults and 50,000 focused on unemployment hotspots.

While there are no specific bids to the fund for Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill constituency, North Lanarkshire council was successful in a bid that will create 1,080 jobs, of which 390 jobs are being created between October 2009 and March 2010. This includes jobs in Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill constituency. National bids will also create additional jobs in this area.

In September we announced the Backing Young Britain campaign, £40 million of funding for new internships and work placements for graduates and 10,000 places for non-graduates, a new mentoring network to help young people find their feet in a tough jobs market and more help from day one of unemployment through job clubs and one to one support. Business, charities and public sector employers are being called upon to join the 280 organisations already signed up to the Backing Young Britain campaign.

There is a wide range of training courses (including part time and evening study) available from Jobcentre Plus, local colleges and other providers. Training will be focused to meet both the individual's work aspirations and the needs of the local job market.

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps her Department has taken to assist unemployed people seeking work-related training and education in Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill constituency. [296527]

Jim Knight: In the Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire area we have received 200 applications for help from the Rapid Response Fund to provide additional training and education support by way of skills analysis and job focused training. Of these, 90 people have been helped since April 2009 and we are currently processing the remaining applications.

In Lanarkshire we expect to have approximately 110-150 vacancies each month in the first six months of the Future Jobs Fund. The Future Jobs Fund is a part of the Young Person's Guarantee and from early 2010, everyone between the ages of 18 and 24 who has been looking for work for a year will get an offer of a job, work experience, or training lasting at least six months. We are currently advertising 136 Future Jobs Fund vacancies across Lanarkshire to 18 to 24-year-olds.

In addition to helping young people, the Future Jobs Fund can also help in unemployment hotspots. In the first round of bids for Future Jobs Fund, North Lanarkshire council, which covers the constituency area and further, has guaranteed 440 jobs, 90 of which are targeted to unemployment hotspot areas and therefore are open to people in those areas aged 25 plus. Looking ahead to 2011, a further 119 jobs will be made available to unemployment hot spot areas.

Overall responsibility for adult training in Scotland rests with the Scottish Government and is delivered by Skills Development Scotland is ongoing under Work Focused Training with local colleges and Skills Development Scotland to develop job focused training relevant to the local labour market. Jobcentre Plus in Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire has an excellent working relationship with Skills Development Scotland. We work together to ensure that the budget for this operational year is focused on providing the right training to assist our customers to secure employment.

The Community Taskforce is due for launch early 2010. Tenders to deliver this work will be assessed in November. This will involve 13 week work placements for 18 to 24-year-olds, aimed at enhancing their skills and experience.

Excellent partnership arrangements have been set up across Lanarkshire through the group Routes to Inclusion. Members of the group include officials from the two local authorities, Jobcentre Plus, local colleges, NHS and Skills Development Scotland. Jobcentre Plus is chair of this group and the agenda is focused on helping people back to work and making the most of funding that is available.

Vacancies: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies were notified to Chelmsford Jobcentre Plus in each of the last six months for which figures are available. [298791]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* The following table shows the number of notified vacancies at the Chelmsford Jobcentre in the six months from April 2009 to September 2009 inclusive. The information covers both the number of live unfilled vacancies, and the number of notified vacancies:

	Jobcentre Plus Chelmsford	
	Live unfilled vacancies	*Notified vacancies*
April 2009	629	772
May 2009	667	891
June 2009	757	951
July 2009	861	967
August 2009	733	1,128
September 2009	774	894

Note:

1. This information is available in the public domain at: www.nomisweb.co.uk
2. Data are unrounded.
3. Changes to Jobcentre Plus vacancy handling procedures have led to a major discontinuity in the vacancy statistics pre and post May 2006. Consequently, care should be taken in interpreting time-series data.
4. These are not whole economy figures. Coverage relates just to vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and as such represent a market share of vacancies throughout the whole economy. This proportion varies over time, according to the occupation of the vacancy and industry of the employer, and by local area. Comprehensive estimates of all job vacancies (not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus) are available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey since April 2001, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.
5. Notified vacancies—uses monthly data on the inflow of newly notified vacancies to Jobcentre Plus.
6. The stocks of live unfilled vacancies reflect more accurately job opportunities available via Jobcentre Plus. In the case of unfilled vacancies, use of the figures on live vacancies is recommended (i.e. excluding suspended vacancies), and this is the default option. Live vacancies may still include some vacancies which have already been filled or are otherwise no longer open.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus Labour Market figures.

Vetting: Young People

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations she has received on the effect on the employment prospects of young jobseekers of spent convictions for minor cautions being disclosed during enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks. [297951]

Jim Knight: I am not aware that any representations have been received on this subject.

Voluntary Work

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of people taking up the offer of a volunteering placement under her Department's Six Month Offer in each month since April 2009; how many placements have been completed; and in how many instances no suitable placement was found. [297350]

Jim Knight: The information requested on the number of volunteering placements under the six month offer is shown in the following table. The latest figures available are for July 2009. The information requested on the number of placements completed and number of cases where no suitable placements could be found is not available.

Number of people taking up volunteering placements under the six month offer

Month	*Number*
April 2009	*
May 2009	90
June 2009	369
July 2009	730

Notes:
1. Figures are for Great Britain.
2. Values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a "*".
3. Any figures above 10 are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. Months are calendar months.

Source:
DWP research at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/6month_offer.asp

Work Emergency Discretion Fund

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have received funding from the Work Emergency Discretion Fund since it became available nationwide. [298863]

Jim Knight: Since the In Work Emergency Discretionary Fund became available nationwide, 820 people have received funding. These data cover the period April 2008 to March 2009.

Work Experience: Young People

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many 18 to 24 year old jobseekers in each region completed a work experience placement in each of the last 24 months. [293587]

Jim Knight: Work experience has been offered to people aged from 18 to 24 through the new deal for young people. I have placed tables in the Library setting out the number of people in each Jobcentre Plus region who have taken up the employment option, the voluntary sector option or the environmental task force option under the new deal for young people in each of the 24 months up to February 2009, which is the latest date for which figures are available.

Working Hours: Lone Parents

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will extend the pilot policy to allow up to 16 hours work by lone parents in receipt of the national minimum wage to be disregarded in respect of eligibility for means-tested benefits nationwide; and if she will make a statement. [296860]

Jim Knight: We announced that we would be testing the effectiveness of an improved financial incentive for parents with younger children who work less than 16 hours while on benefit in the 'Progression to Work' pathfinders.

We are proposing to test allowing lone parents with younger children to earn up to £50 before their benefit begins to be withdrawn. The current earnings disregard is £20 a week.

We want to see whether increasing the incentive can support them to make the transition from benefits to sustainable work. When we have tested and evaluated this initiative we will consider introducing this disregard nationally.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to respond to *(a)* Question 295491, on funding from the Growth Fund, and *(b)* Question 295848, on the Birmingham City Council Jobcentre Plus Partnership, tabled on 21 October 2009 for answer on 26 October 2009. [297857]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 5 November 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member's questions as follows: PQ 295491 on 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 90W and PQ 295848 on 3 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 822-23W.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty: Voluntary Organisations

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made a recent estimate of the cost to non-governmental organisations and charities employing aid workers overseas of air passenger duty paid on air travel; and if he will make a statement. [299541]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In line with Cabinet Office guidance, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs conducted an impact assessment of the new APD banding system and published it on its website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ria/apd-reform-ia.pdf

The assessment does not look at each individual sector of the economy.

The Government conducted a 12-week formal consultation from 31 January 2008 on aviation taxation. The responses to the consultation, including non-governmental organisations and charities can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr08_aviationduty_395.pdf

Bank Services: Interest Charges

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an assessment of the effects on the economy of the rates of interest applied to current accounts at *(a)* Lloyds Banking Group, *(b)* RBS, *(c)* Barclays and *(d)* HSBC; and if he will make a statement. [299007]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury does not collect information on the rates of interest on current accounts. I refer the hon. Member to the reply I made to him on 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 65W, in relation to indicators of competition in the UK retail banking sector monitored by the Treasury.

Business: Insurance

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the amount spent by UK businesses on business interruption insurance in each of the last 10 financial years. [298943]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No such estimate has been made.

Child Trust Fund: Wales

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in respect of how many children child trust fund payments have been made in *(a)* each constituency in Wales and *(b)* each council ward in the Vale of Clwyd. [299705]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The annual statistical information on Child Trust Fund Accounts including constituency level data can be viewed on HM Revenue and Customs' website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/cons-stats-nov09.pdf

Information on accounts opened is not held at council ward level.

Christmas

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on Christmas (i) cards, (ii) parties and (iii) decorations in the last 12 months. [299261]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The cost of purchasing cards for Christmas 2008 was £3,799 for the Treasury and £798 for the Debt Management Office. The Treasury's cards were purchased from Card Aid, who made a donation to charity on behalf of the Department.

Christmas parties are funded by staff and not the Department and Christmas decorations are also either purchased by staff or by facilities management companies without recourse to public funds.

Climate Change: Costs

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the evidential basis was for the Prime Minister's statement at the Major Economics Forum on 19 October 2009, that the economic cost of failure to avoid the current effects of climate change could lead to an economic cost greater than the losses caused by two world wars and the Great Depression; and what estimate he has made of the global financial cost of *(a)* World War I, *(b)* the Great Depression and *(c)* World War II (i) as a percentage of gross domestic products and (ii) in real terms. [296795]

Mr. Byrne: The Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change published on 30 October 2006, states that, if the wider range of risks and impacts is taken into account, then the estimates of damage from climate change could rise to 20 per cent. of global GDP or more. The review concludes that ignoring climate change could lead to major disruption to economic and social activity later in this century and the next, on a scale similar to those associated with the great wars and the economic depression of the first half of the 20th century. The Stern Review is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/stern_review_report.htm

Construction Industry Scheme

Ms Keeble: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the number of people registered with the Construction Industry Scheme who are unemployed. [299600]

Mr. Timms: No such estimate has been made.

The Construction Industry Scheme applies only to those who are self-employed; records are only kept of payments made during their periods of engagement.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2009. [299551]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury Group, which includes the Debt Management Office and the Office of Government Commerce, paid 98 per cent. of invoices not in dispute in September and 97 per cent. in October within 10 days of receipt.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department's information assurance procedures have been subject to an independent audit. [299384]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury's information assurance procedures were subjected to an independent audit during the spring and early summer of 2009.

Departmental Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* energy rating and *(b)* energy band of each building occupied by his Department and its agencies was in each year for which figures are available. [299173]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is available for buildings occupied by HM Treasury and the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) of more than 1,000 square metres from 2008, and for the UK Debt Management Office (DMO) from 2009, as shown in the following table.

	2008		2009	
Location	*Rating*	*Band*	*Rating*	*Band*
HM Treasury and OGC				
1 Horse Guards Road, London	119	E	125	E
Rosebery Court, Norwich	156	G	146	F

Location	2008 Rating	2008 Band	2009 Rating	2009 Band
DMO				
Eastcheap Court, London	—	—	200	G

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department was in the last 12 months. [299593]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No special advisers are provided with an allocated Government car and driver. As with all civil servants, special advisers may use an official car or taxi in properly defined circumstances. Details of such use is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department and its agencies in 2008-09. [299277]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Press officers in HM Treasury and its agencies claimed reimbursable expenses of £1,754 in 2008-09.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department and its agencies on procurement under tender because the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last 12 months. [299358]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies make of electronic auctions when undertaking procurement exercises. [299455]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to page Ev 70 of the Treasury Committee's Thirteenth Report of Session 2008-09, Evaluating the Efficiency Programme (HC 520).

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on *(a)* Ministerial photoshoots and *(b)* production of videos in which Ministers appear in the last three years. [299301]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury has spent £2,543.88 in the last three years on photographs of new Ministers to the Department for the Treasury's website. With regards to production videos in which Ministers appear in the last three years I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1093, to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell).

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* average time to answer a call, *(b)* average waiting time for a member of the public during a call, *(c)* percentage of calls dropped or not answered and *(d)* average length of a call was in call centres run by HM Revenue and Customs in the latest period for which figures are available. [299463]

Mr. Timms: The latest period for which figures are available is October 2009. During this period, in HM Revenue and Customs' centrally managed network of contact centres, the:

(a) average time to answer a call was 37 seconds;

(b) average waiting time for a member of the public during a call, that is the time spent on-hold during their conversation, was 15 seconds;

(c) percentage of calls not answered was 5.7 per cent. of the total call attempts, as measured by the number of engaged tones and busy messages that were played; and

(d) average time to handle a call (including any additional time taken by the adviser to carry out work related to call after it has ended) was six minutes four seconds.

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department travelled by (i) car, (ii) rail and (iii) air on Government business in each year since 1997. [298550]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested could only be provided at disproportionate cost. HM Treasury systems do not record travel by Ministers separately from travel by officials.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Ben Chapman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had on criteria for compensation of Equitable Life policyholders. [298066]

Mr. Byrne: The Government asked Sir John Chadwick to advise on the extent of relative loss suffered by current and former Equitable Life policyholders, as well as what factors the Government might wish to take into account when determining whether disproportionate impact has been suffered. The Government expects Sir John to submit his final advice by spring 2010.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* ministerial colleagues and *(b)* Sir John Chadwick on the likely timetable for payment of compensation to Equitable Life policyholders. [298087]

Mr. Byrne: As I announced in the House on 21 October, the Government expects Sir John to submit his final advice by spring 2010. We will consider his advice as quickly as possible and announce a payment scheme that is practical to deliver and fair to both policyholders and taxpayers.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had on the progress of Sir John Chadwick's work on an ex-gratia payment scheme for Equitable Life policyholders. [298283]

Mr. Byrne: The Government expects Sir John to submit his final advice by spring 2010. We will consider his advice as quickly as possible and announce a payment scheme that is practical to deliver and fair to both policyholders and taxpayers.

EU Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons an impact assessment was not produced for the implementation of the EU Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive. [299359]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A copy of the Commission's impact assessment on its 30 April 2009 proposals for an Alternative investment Fund Managers Directive was deposited in both Houses on 6 May 2009.

The FSA published the impact assessment that it commissioned on 15 October 2009.

The European Parliament published the 'Quick' impact assessment it commissioned on 10 November 2009.

Gift Aid

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer at what rate individuals paying the 50 per cent. income tax rate; who donate to charities, will be eligible to claim back via gift aid. [299460]

Ian Pearson: The amount an individual is eligible to claim back following a qualifying gift aid donation will depend on the amount donated, and is relieved at the donor's marginal rate of tax. So an individual who would pay tax at 50 per cent. would be able to claim back an amount up to the difference between this higher rate of tax and the basic rate of tax, depending on the total value of the donation.

Government Air Programme

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which company has obtained the framework agreement for the Government air programme; and what is the monetary value of the agreement. [299473]

Ian Pearson: The Framework Agreement for the Government Air Programme has been awarded on a multi source basis to the airline carriers, shown in the following list. The estimated annual value of the programme is £69.6 million per annum, the duration of the Framework Agreement is two years with an option to extend for a further 12 months.

Aer Lingus
Air Canada
Air France / KLM
Air New Zealand
American Airlines
Austrian Airlines
BMI
British Airways
Brussels Airlines
Cathay Pacific
Continental Airways
Delta Airlines
Emirates
Finnair Oyj
Flybe
Gulf Air
Jet Airways
Kenya Airways
Lufthansa German Airlines
Malaysia airlines
Qantas Airways
Qatar Airways
Scandinavian Airlines System
Singapore Airlines
South African Airways
Swiss International Airlines
Turkish Airlines
United Airlines
Virgin Atlantic Airways
VLM Airlines

Government: Assets

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish at the time of the Pre-Budget Report a full list of Government assets planned to be sold. [299299]

Mr. Byrne: As stated in Budget 2009 progress on the asset management and sales strand of the Operational Efficiency programme will be reported in the pre-Budget report 2009.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what evidential basis the estimate that sale of Government assets is expected to raise £16 billion between 2011 and 2014 was made. [299300]

Mr. Byrne: Local authorities are expected to contribute £11 billion in asset sales in the period 2011-14. This is based on historic sales of fixed and financial assets and trends in property prices and transactions.

The Government estimates that a further £3 billion will be raised from the sale of central Government business assets and will set out further details in the coming weeks.

An estimated £2 billion will be raised from the sale of central Government property.

HM Revenue and Customs

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the level of failure demand in call centres run by HM Revenue and Customs. [299464]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not specifically use the term or measure 'failure demand' within its call centres.

Job Creation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1510W, on job creation, what methodology will be used to assess whether 100,000 new jobs have been created; and what role the UK Statistics Authority will play in vetting such statistics. [299327]

Mr. Byrne: As set out in my reply to the hon. Member in PQ 299465, the Government have published the methodology it used to calculate aggregate jobs supported by economic stimulus, as well as the individual measures that will support jobs in the UK. This is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/foi_economic_stimulus.htm

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the number of full-time equivalent net jobs which have been created due to Government's stimulus measures; and over what period of time these jobs have been created. [299465]

Mr. Byrne: On 4 November 2009, HM Treasury published a paper setting out the estimated effect on employment of discretionary economic stimulus put in place since November 2008—see "Employment impact of Government interventions":

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/foi_economic_stimulus.htm

Personal Income

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average income was in *(a)* Vale of Clwyd and *(b)* each region in each of the last 20 years. [299719]

Mr. Timms: Information on income by parliamentary constituency is only available for taxpayers. The mean income of taxpayers in the Vale of Clwyd for 2002-03 to 2006-07 can be found in table 3.15 "Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency" and for the regions of the UK for 1999-2000 to 2006-07 in table 3.13 "Income and tax by county and region" available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm

The estimates shown in the tables are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes of which 2006-07 is the latest available.

Estimates of mean income of taxpayers by parliamentary constituency for earlier years are not available as the sample size of the survey was too small to give reliable results. However the mean income of taxpayers by region for earlier years is either shown, or can be derived from information shown, in Inland Revenue Statistics, copies of which are in the Library.

Playing Fields: Sales

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has received representations on the likely effect on numbers of playing fields of the implementation of the Government's policy on asset sales; and if he will make a statement. [297912]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 5 November 2009]*: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Police: Northern Ireland

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the content was of *(a)* correspondence sent by and *(b)* other communications made by (i) him and (ii) the Chief Secretary to the Treasury to the First and Deputy First Ministers of the Northern Ireland Executive since 1 September 2009 on issues relating to policing and justice in Northern Ireland; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such communication. [297603]

Mr. Byrne: There have been a number of discussions between the Prime Minister and the Northern Ireland Executive First Minister and Deputy First Minister on issues relating to policing and justice in Northern Ireland. The key elements of the financial offer made by the Prime Minister were published on 21 October 2009.

Research and Development Tax Credits Scheme

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes there have been in the application of the rules for the Research and Development Tax Credits Scheme in the last 18 months; and if he will make a statement [299255]

Ian Pearson: On 14 November 2008, in Revenue and Customs Brief 55/08, HMRC announced a change of practice, effective from 1 December 2008, in relation to the research and development (R and D) tax relief schemes, where a company loses its status as a small or medium enterprise as a result of a merger or takeover. HMRC is also currently updating guidance on the R and D tax relief schemes in the Corporate Intangibles and Research and Development manual, including to explain that certain expenditure on 'Qualifying Indirect Activities' may be included in claims.

Revenue and Customs: Repayment

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for the Vale of York (Miss Anne McIntosh) of 27 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 275W, on Revenue and Customs: repayment, how much *(a)* capital and *(b)* interest has been paid by HM Revenue and Customs on sums it has collected in error in each of the last three years. [299342]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost, as HM Revenue and Customs' systems do not routinely record the reasons for repayments.

Tax Collection

John Hemming: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer within what timescale HM Revenue and Customs is expected to have recovered outstanding liabilities for *(a)* value added tax and *(b)* other taxes. [297130]

Mr. Timms: The dates on which payments of VAT and other taxes are due are set out in statute. The Government expect that all tax due will be paid in full and on time. If individuals or businesses are unable to pay on time they should contact HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) as soon as possible. The sooner they do so the sooner the Department can begin working with them to find a solution. For example, depending on the specific circumstances a Time to Pay arrangement may be appropriate, allowing payment to be scheduled over a period the taxpayer can afford.

Further information is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/payinghmrc/problems/index.htm

HMRC vigorously pursues all those who will not pay when they have the means to do so or who otherwise try to cheat the system. All those who do not pay or fail to engage with HMRC face the prospect of legal enforcement action.

Damian Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individuals received retrospective tax demands as a result of the *(a)* Finance Act 1987 and *(b)* Finance Act 2008. [297669]

Mr. Timms: On the assumption that the question concerns section 62 of the Finance (No2) Act 1987 and section 58 of the Finance Act 2008, I can confirm that both sections were introduced to prevent abuse of the United Kingdom's double tax treaties. Section 58 of the Finance Act 2008 was introduced to deal with a particularly aggressive and widely used avoidance scheme by which an estimated 3,000 users have collectively attempted to avoid more than £200 million of UK tax. There are no figures available in relation to section 62 of the Finance (No2) Act 1987.

Thalidomide Trust

Mark Durkan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Government received a request from the Thalidomide Trust in 1996 for the granting of tax rebates for victims of thalidomide receiving payments as a result of a covenant agreement between the Thalidomide Trust and Guinness. [291306]

Mr. Timms: The Government received a request in 1995 for additional funding on the basis of tax that had been paid by the trust.

The Government agreed to make a final 'once and for all' payment of £7 million in 1996 in recognition of the "unique and tragic circumstances which surround the Thalidomide disaster". However, the Government made clear that this payment was not made to offset the tax paid by the trust.

VAT

Willie Rennie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the retail industry of the return of the rate of value added tax to 17.5 per cent. [299368]

Mr. Timms: The Impact Assessment published at the 2008 pre-Budget report provides an estimate of the compliance costs:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr08_vat_1845.pdf

Willie Rennie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent assessment is of the effect on retail prices of the return of the rate of value added tax to 17.5 per cent. [299369]

Mr. Timms: The Budget 2009 forecast is for CPI inflation to fall to 1 per cent. by the end of 2009 and increase to 1 per cent. in the second quarter of 2010. CPI inflation is forecast to remain below target in 2010 and then to return close to target during 2011.

Updated forecasts for inflation will be published later this autumn in the pre-Budget report, as is usual practice.

Welfare Tax Credits: Selby

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families were in receipt of working families tax credit in Selby constituency on the latest date for which information is available. [298773]

Mr. Timms: Working families tax credit was replaced by child tax credit and working tax credit in April 2003.

The latest information on the number of recipient families of child and working tax credits, by parliamentary constituency, is provided in the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) snapshot publication, "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Geographical Analyses April 2009", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

HMRC do not produce these statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Advantage West Midlands

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on the economy of projects in Herefordshire undertaken by Advantage West Midlands in 2009. [298521]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Advantage West Midlands (AWM) has made a number of interventions to support the economy of Herefordshire in the short, medium and longer terms. The investment by AWM in land and property projects in Herefordshire to date has been £34 million, which is expected to generate about £476 million gross value added (GVA) over 10-years. Its investment in market towns and similar activity in the area over the last three years has been £5.2 million, which is expected to generate about £20 million GVA over these years. The impact of initiatives in a particular year is hard to assess since it takes time for projects realise their full effect. However based on these overall figures, AWM's support is expected to generate an additional £54 million GVA for the Herefordshire economy in 2009.

Examples of investment activity in Herefordshire include:

Supporting a comprehensive programme of employment land supply across the county including Leominster Enterprise Park, Rotherwas Industrial Estate, the development of Model Farm at Ross on Wye, and employment land at Tenbury, just outside the northern boundary of the county.

Supporting the Edgar Street Grid initiative with a £20 million investment to provide infrastructure to enable the redevelopment of this 40 hectare area just north of Hereford city centre. This is expected to deliver 1,400 net new jobs and 1,000 new homes.

Supporting interventions that provide an immediate benefit to counter the impact of the recession including tailored support to the retail sector; further support to the Wheels to Work initiative to enable people to access work or training; support to Citizens Advice Bureaux; and funds to support events and festivals during the summer of 2009.

Funding for the Rural Regeneration Zone, which provides tailored support to business, communities and social enterprises, reflecting the unique character of Herefordshire.

Advantage West Midlands would be delighted to brief the hon. Member for Leominster on the full scope of its past, current and planned activities in Herefordshire.

British-Israel Research and Academic Exchange

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UK-based academics have participated in the British-Israel Research and Academic Exchange (BIRAX) scheme since 2008; and what level of funding has been provided by his Department for the scheme. [illegible]

Mr. Lammy: The Britain Israel Research and Academic Exchange partnerships scheme (BIRAX) is largely privately funded with a start-up contribution of £20,000 from the Government including £15,000 from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The first round of awards was announced by the British Council in October 2009. A total of 15 projects have been successful in obtaining BIRAX grants and these will involve 44 UK-based academics in the current academic year.

Business Premises: Regeneration

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much *(a)* commercial and *(b)* light industrial building space has been (i) constructed or (ii) recovered through regeneration of existing building by each regional development agency since 1997; and what proportion of such space was occupied in the latest period for which figures are available. [illegible]

Ms Rosie Winterton: To gather this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Business: Government Assistance

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has allocated additional funding to *(a)* Business Link, *(b)* Flexible Support for Business and *(c)* Business Gateway and Training for Work to provide the self-employment support available under the six month offer. [illegible]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Business Innovation and Skills has not provided any additional funding to Business Link for support under the six month offer. However, it is distributing funds provided by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for Business Link providers in England, to increase the amount of support available to people participating in the "six month" offer that need intensive start up support.

DWP have also provided funds to the Devolved Administrations for the same purpose. These funds are not being distributed by this Department.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what information his Department holds on the rates of interest charged by lenders on the repayment of loans offered under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme; [295215]

(2) when he plans to answer Question 295215, on the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme, tabled on 20 October 2009. [298983]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Enterprise Finance Guarantee aims to encourage additional commercial lending to viable businesses.

The level of interest rates and any other fees or charges made by lenders in connection with any lending are a matter for the lender concerned. This information is not held by the Department. However, we would expect such charges made in connection with lending backed by EFG to be in line with their normal commercial lending.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how much was spent in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 on the Improving Your Resource Efficiency Scheme; and how many businesses received assistance from the scheme in each of these years; [298137]

(2) how much was spent in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 on the Improving Your Resource Efficiency Scheme; and how many businesses received assistance from the scheme in each of these years. [298131]

Dan Norris: I have been asked to reply.

Improving your resource efficiency was not operational during the period 2007-08. Expenditure on improving Your Resource Efficiency is split across central Government and regional development agencies. Actual expenditure in the period 2008-09, including expenditure by regional development agencies is currently being collated by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The number of business assists given by improving Your Resource Efficiency in 2008/09 was 184,585.

Business: North West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many loans had been granted under the small business loan guarantee scheme to businesses in *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* the North West on the latest date for which figures are available. [296719]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In Chorley, as of the 28 October, 11 businesses have been offered loans totalling £724,290 under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee.

In Lancashire, 127 businesses have been offered loans totalling £11.7 million.

In the north-west, 631 businesses have been offered loans totalling £59.4 million.

Capital for Enterprise Fund

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications for funding from the Capital for Enterprise Fund have been rejected to date. [292115]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 October 2009]:* As of 14 October, 426 applications for funding from the Capital for Enterprise Fund have been rejected. This is from 773 businesses that have registered their interest in this fund.

Offers totalling £56.4 million have been made to 37 businesses. This includes six businesses that have received investment totalling £8.2 million and six businesses that have accepted the terms of the funding offered with a total value of £9.6 million. The fund managers continue due diligence on these, and are considering the significant number of further proposals that have been put forward for appraisal.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2009. [299552]

Ian Lucas: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills paid 95.5 per cent. of invoices within 10 days in September and 96.5 per cent. of invoices within 10 days in October. The value of invoices paid within 10 days in September and October totalled over £2.9 billion.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many external consultants work for his Department. [297745]

Mr. McFadden: In 2008/2009, the Department used 248 consultancy suppliers but the records do not indicate the number of consultants that were employed on each contract. Generally, the Department does not record the number of consultants it employs.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost was of maintaining his Department's website in 2008-09; and what forecast he has made of the cost of maintaining these websites for which his Department is responsible in 2009-10. [297742]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was formed on 5 June by the merger of the former Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

The costs of maintaining the BERR website (www.berr.gov.uk) in 2008/09 were:

	£
Strategy and planning—site content mapping and analysis	34,995
Design and build	272,811
Hosting and infrastructure (including licensing and technical support for Content Management System)	286,183
Testing and evaluation	39,186
Total	633,175

The costs of maintaining the DIUS website (www.dius.gov.uk) from July 2008 to June 2009 were:

	£
Development	106,471
Design	105,443
Changes	81,000
Hosting (including domain registration and licensing)	334,600
Co-location	22,000
Total	649,514

Since the creation of BIS, three websites are being operated: a new interim BIS site (while a new website is being developed) and the websites for the former BERR and the former DIUS.

Spend to date on maintaining the BIS website (www.bis.gov.uk) is:

	£
Website design	16,158
Hosting setup	1,160
Hosting (monthly charge)	449

Spend to date on maintaining the former BERR website (www.berr.gov.uk) is:

	£
Strategy and planning	n/a
Design and build	1,922.50
Hosting and infrastructure (including licensing and technical support for Content Management System)	295,779
Testing and evaluation	11,570
Total	309,271.50

Spend to date on maintaining the former DIUS website (www.dius.gov.uk) is:

DIUS hosting cost (for April 2009 to November 2009): £62,278.24.

Departmental Records

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department holds records of the efficiency of central public sector bodies in paying their invoices within 10 days. [299415]

Mr. McFadden: In October 2008 the Prime Minister announced that all central Government Departments will pay invoices within 10 (working) days.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is monitoring performance against this commitment as shown in the following performance data for September.

In the period June to October £73 billion worth of payments were made to businesses within 10 days.

10 day payment performance for September 2009 (volume of invoices)

	Percentage
DEFRA	99.90
Home Office	99.00
Scotland Office	98.70
Department of Health	97.98
Ministry of Defence	97.70
HM Treasury (including Office of Government Commerce)	97.54
Department for Work and Pensions	97.00
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	96.60
HM Revenue and Customs	96.26
Department for Business Innovation and Skills	95.50
Northern Ireland Office	95.20
Cabinet Office	92.00
Office for National Statistics	92.00
Department for Children Schools and Families	91.80
Ministry of Justice	91.70
Department for Culture Media and Sport	91.41
Department for International Development	91.09
Department for Transport	91.01
Communities and Local Government	90.59
Wales Office	89.00
Department of Energy and Climate Change	85.10

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department and its predecessors travelled by (i) car, (ii) rail and (iii) air on government business in each year since 1997. [298536]

Mr. McFadden: The number of miles travelled by Ministers and officials in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and its predecessors, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Department for Trade and Industry was:

	Car	*Rail*	*Air*
2001/02	n/a	n/a	18,117,046
2002/03	n/a	n/a	17,831,460
2003/04	n/a	n/a	17,103,168
2004/05	n/a	n/a	15,209,065
2005/06	1,783,791	7,496,655	13,459,268
2006/07	1,354,339	5,951,156	13,222,598
2007/08	1,083,264	3,563,015	11,133,497
2008/09	1,016,016	3,743,614	12,851,760

Note:
Mileage details are not available prior to 2001/02; car and rail mileage details were not recorded before 2005.

The number of miles travelled by Ministers and officials in the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills since it was formed in June 2007 was:

	Car	*Rail*	*Air*
2007	n/a	1,479,709	445,283
2008/09	n/a	1,738,674	353,399

Note:
Car mileage details are not available for DIUS travel; to obtain this information would entail disproportionate costs.

Details for Ministers and officials are not separately recorded; to provide this information would entail disproportionate costs. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Civil Service management Code. All staff must ensure they use the most efficient and economic means of travel.

Employment Agencies: EU Law

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills by what means his Department informed the *(a)* Confederation of British Industry, *(b)* Engineering Employers Federation, *(c)* British Chambers of Commerce, *(d)* Recruitment and Employment Confederation and *(e)* Institute of Directors of his decision to delay implementation of the Agency Workers Directive in the UK until 2011. [298670]

Mr. McFadden: The implementation date was made known to all interested parties when consultation on draft Regulations to implement the directive was launched on 15 October.

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to inform *(a)* the Trades Union Congress, *(b)* Unite, *(c)* Unison, *(d)* the GMB, *(e)* the Communication Workers Union and *(f)* other trades unions of the proposed implementation date of late 2011 for the agency workers directive in the UK. [298671]

Mr. McFadden: The implementation date was made known to all interested parties when consultation on draft regulations to implement the directive was launched on 15 October.

Employment: Environment Protection

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what sectors are included in his Department's definition of green jobs. [299539]

Ian Lucas: In 2007-08 there were an estimated 880,000 jobs in the UK Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services Sector (LCEGS). This is based on a report by Innovas, which was commissioned by Government. The estimate covers not only 'traditional' environmental goods and service sectors and renewable energy technologies, but also emerging low-carbon areas such as carbon finance, alternative fuels, building technologies and energy management. This deliberately broad definition encompasses the far reaching nature of the sector and includes the associated supply chain activity.

But we need to remember that essentially we need all jobs to be green jobs. Ambitious carbon reduction targets will require a transition to low carbon for the whole economy. This will affect businesses and workers across the entire British economy, not just the LCEGS sector.

Furniture: Foam

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* representations he has received and *(b)* contact he has had with the Office of Fair Trading on trends in the price of foam supplied to UK furniture manufactures in the last 12 months. [299169]

Ian Lucas: None.

Further Education: Higher Education

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment his Department has made of the performance of further education colleges in providing higher education courses. [299101]

Mr. Lammy: As we made clear in our publication Higher Ambitions, we believe that further education colleges have an important role in providing higher education. Further education colleges are invaluable in promoting locally accessible higher education and in the provision of skills and qualifications up to and including foundation degree level.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of students who complete a higher education qualification at a further education college who take up *(a)* further study and *(b)* employment. [299102]

Mr. Lammy: Information on the destinations of students completing a higher education qualification in a further education college is not held centrally.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of students in further education colleges were studying for a *(a)* Bachelor of Arts honours degree, *(b)* Bachelor of Science degree, *(c)* foundation degree, *(d)* higher national diploma and *(e)* higher national certificate qualification on the latest date for which figures are available. [299103]

Mr. Lammy: The latest provisional figures are shown in the table. Final figures for 2007/08 and provisional figures for 2008/09 will be available in January.

Number and proportion of higher education enrolments by level of study, English further education colleges, academic year 2007/08

Level of study	*Number*	*Percentage*
Bachelor of Arts	10,980	9
Bachelor of Science	2,085	2
Foundation Degree	18,055	15
HND	10,190	8
HNC	12,295	10
Other HE qualifications	68,540	56
Total HE	122,145	100

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest five, and proportions are based on un-rounded figures.
2. Figures include enrolments who are funded by the Learning and Skills Council on courses at level 4 and above.
Source:
Learning and Skills Council individualised learner record F04.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of students studying for higher education qualifications at further education colleges was studying *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time on the latest date for which figures are available; and what proportion of such students was aged between (i) 19 and 24, (ii) 25 and 59 and (iii) over 60 years. [299100]

Mr. Lammy: The latest provisional figures are shown in the table. Final figures for 2007-08 and provisional figures for 2008-09 will be available in January 2010.

Proportion of higher education enrolments by mode of study and age: English further education colleges academic year 2007-08

	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Unknown mode*
All ages	25	74	1
of which:			
Under 19	12	3	0
19 to 24	50	22	8
25 to 59	38	74	91
60 and over	1	1	1

Note:
Figures include enrolments who are funded by the Learning and Skills Council on courses at level 4 and above.
Source:
Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record F04.

GCSE and GCE A-Level: Young Offenders

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 342W, on GCSE and GCE A-level: young offenders, how many of the enrolments for *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* GCE A-level examinations related to offenders aged (i) 15 to 21, (ii) 22 to 30, (iii) 31 to 40, (iv) 41 to 50 and (v) over 50 years. [299130]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

For the most recent academic year for which data are available, the number of enrolments on GCSE and GCE A/AS/A2 level by offenders in the secure estate by age range is given in the following table:

Table 1

England

	Number of enrolments in 2007/08 academic year		
Age groups	*GCSE*	*GCE A/AS/A2 level*	*Grand total*
15 to 21	373	66	439
22 to 30	323	60	383
31 to 40	189	46	235
41 to 50	117	38	155
Over 50 years	191	54	245

Table 1

England

	Number of enrolments in 2007/08 academic year		
Age groups	*GCSE*	*GCE A/AS/A2 level*	*Grand total*
Unknown	1	—	1
Total	1,194	264	1,458

Source:
2007/08 F05 ILR

Genetically Modified Organisms: Food

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what contribution his Department is making to the programme of consumer engagement on genetic modification being undertaken by the Food Standards Agency. [298194]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is contributing £300,000 towards the Food Standards Agency's programme of consumer engagement on genetic modification. This represents 40 per cent. of the total cost of the programme and is made available as a grant through the Sciencewise Expert Resource Centre for Public Dialogue in Science and Innovation (Sciencewise-ERC). Sciencewise-ERC supports policy makers in the commissioning and use of public dialogue to improve the quality of decision-making in emerging areas of science and technology.

Higher Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many higher education students have been studying in further education colleges in each of the last 10 years. [299736]

Mr. Lammy: The latest information is provided in the table. Final figures for 2007/08 and provisional figures for 2008/09 will be available in January.

Higher education enrolments[1] English further education colleges—Academic years 2002/03 to2007/08

Academic year	*Enrolments*
2002/03	139,215
2003/04	143,065
2004/05	140,490
2005/06	138,305
2006/07	130,235
2007/08[2]	122,145

[1] Includes postgraduate and undergraduate students of all domiciles enrolled on full-time and part-time courses.
[2] Figures for the 2007/08 academic year are provisional.
Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.
2. Figures cover students who are funded by the Learning and Skills Council at level 4 and above.
Source:
Learning and Skills Council's Individualised Learning Record (F04 and F05).

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many foundation degrees in each subject have been awarded in each year since they began, broken down by subject area. [299737]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) collects information on the number of Foundation Degree qualifiers at Higher Education Institutions. Information on Foundation Degree qualifiers from English Further Education Colleges is not available. The latest information from HESA is shown in the table.

Qualifiers[1] from foundation degrees by subject of study English higher education institutions academic years 2002-03 to 2007-08

Subject of study	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Medicine and dentistry	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subjects allied to medicine	65	270	405	775	1,090	1,275
Biological sciences	45	85	110	235	385	565
Veterinary science	10	0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture and related subjects	20	145	255	425	575	750
Physical sciences	25	30	50	80	110	135
Mathematical sciences	5	0	0	0	0	0
Computer science	20	125	370	680	730	935
Engineering and technology	140	250	400	525	635	905
Architecture, building and planning	15	20	50	165	235	365
Social studies	70	350	700	720	1,030	1,400
Law	0	10	15	40	100	210
Business and administrative studies	220	385	745	1,110	1,445	2,090
Mass communications and documentation	35	85	150	230	260	275
Languages	0	20	15	15	20	10
Historical and philosophical studies	0	0	0	10	70	55
Creative arts and design	285	640	980	1,480	1,945	2,255
Education	110	445	1,385	2,325	2,370	3,060
Combined	0	0	0	5	0	70
Total	1,060	2,855	5,635	8,820	11,000	14,355

[1] Figures cover qualifiers from all domiciles and modes of study.
Note:
Figures are based on a HESA qualifications obtained population and have been rounded to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

The Higher Education Funding Council for England produces a regular report on Foundation degrees, which covers both English HEIs and English Further Education Colleges

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2008/08_16/

However, figures in their report do not cover qualifiers by subject of study. To demonstrate the volume of students studying at FECs, table 4 of the HEFCE report shows that approximately one quarter of entrants to Foundation Degrees in 2005-06 were registered at English FECs.

Higher Education: Admissions

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of students studying for higher education qualifications in further education colleges had previously attended *(a)* a maintained school, *(b)* an independent school, *(c)* a further education college, *(d)* a sixth form college and *(e)* a university in the latest period for which figures are available. [299047]

Mr. Lammy: Information on the previous institution type of students studying higher education qualifications at further education colleges is not held centrally.

Higher Education: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the Strategic Investment Fund he plans to allocate to skills training and higher education. [299104]

Kevin Brennan: The Strategic Investment Fund is helping to deliver the Government's strategy as set out in the "Building Britain's Future - New Industry, New Jobs" framework document, published on 20 April, and will allow Government to support advanced industrial projects of strategic importance to the UK's economic renewal and growth.

While there are no plans to allocate money specifically to skills training and higher education, details of the projects where funding has already been allocated are set out in an interim report on the SIF which was published in October. Copies are available in the Library.

Higher Education: Per Capita Costs

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the cost per student of a course leading to a higher education qualification in *(a)* a university and *(b)* a further education college. [299046]

Mr. Lammy: Estimates of the cost per student of a course leading to a higher education qualification are not available separately regarding whether a student attends a university or further education college.

The 2009 DIUS annual report provided a provisional estimate of expenditure per full-time equivalent student for the financial year 2007-08 across all types of institution. The average departmental expenditure per student per year was estimated to be £6,215, and was composed of teaching grant, research grant and student support expenditure.

This estimate relates to home and EU domiciled students studying for a higher education qualification in England, some of whom were not HEFCE fundable or eligible for student support.

Job Creation: Young People

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many new jobs for young people his Department expects to be created in each of the next five years. [298860]

Ian Lucas: Ultimately it is successful businesses that create jobs. Government's focus is to drive sustainable economic growth, which in turn can foster the business success that will generate the jobs of the future.

The Government have also invested nearly £5 billion since November 2008 to help those on out-of-work benefits take up the jobs created by businesses. This includes a substantial package of education, training and employment measures for young people.

This help includes the Future Jobs Fund which is funded until March 2011 and it will create at least 100,000 jobs for young people in this time.

Manufacturing Industries: West Midlands

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what incentives are available to manufacturers in the West Midlands to use recycled materials. [293771]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A range of advice and support is available to assist firms in the West Midlands seeking to reduce waste and save money through recycling. The Manufacturing Advisory Service in the West Midlands (MAS-WM) and Business Link West Midlands (BL-WM) provide support to businesses to help them improve their efficiency. This can include work to improve processes to reduce or eliminate the creation of waste or to reduce costs through the use of recycled materials. MAS-WM and BL-WM also work with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and the National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP) and encourage firms to use their services.

WRAP delivers funding and business development services to recycling firms in the West Midlands as part of an AWM (Regional Development Agency) funded support programme worth £5 million.

NISP, now supported by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, brings together companies which produce waste with other companies which can use that waste as raw materials. This assists both companies, saving the waste producer the cost of disposal and providing the waste user with materials at a lower cost than if they had used virgin raw materials. NISP has:

1. Saved 5.2 million tonnes of waste going to landfill
2. Eliminated 357,000 tonnes of hazardous waste
3. Save the use of 7.9 million tonnes of virgin material
4. Saved 9.4 million tonnes of water
5. Prevented 5.2 million tonnes of carbon emissions
6. Attracted £116 million of private sector investment

Monitor Group

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any Minister or official in his Department and its predecessors has had *(a)* meetings, *(b)* communications and *(c)* other contacts with the Monitor Group in the last five years. [295328]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* According to departmental records there has been infrequent contact between the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (and its previously named Departments) and the Monitor Group, whose headquarters are based in Cambridge, Massachusetts

The Department's main contact with the Monitor Group has been with the Foresight 'Horizon Scanning Centre', an initiative operated within the Government

Office for Science (formerly the Office of Science and Technology within the Department of Trade and Industry).

On 3 March 2005 the Horizon Scanning Centre issued an invitation to tender to a number of organisations, including Monitor Group Europe, for a project seeking research and other support to write the 'Sigma Scan': a collection of papers looking forward at emerging trends, potential new issues, opportunities and threats, and the possible implications.

On 15 March 2005, Monitor Group Europe wrote to the Department indicating they did not wish to proceed to tender.

In addition, a Director of the Foresight programme (of which the Horizon Scanning Centre is part), Professor Sandy Thomas, met a representative of the Monitor Group, in 2008, for an introductory meeting about Foresight's plans to develop a new communications strategy. However, no further meetings were held, and Monitor was not subsequently involved in development of the strategy.

The Department received a letter from the Monitor Group in 2005 relating to a general inquiry on the allocation of funding in the education sector and a request in 2008 from the Group's Munich office for information on the UK building sector.

We have no records of any Minister meeting with the Monitor Group on departmental business.

National Federation of Sub Postmasters: Finance

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding Royal Mail has contributed to the National Federation of Sub Postmasters in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09. [298944]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not hold the information requested. I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries.

North West Development Agency: Public Appointments

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 657W, on the North West Development Agency: public appointments, when the Secretary of State received for approval the nomination of Robert Hough as the Chair of the North West Development Agency. [294839]

Ms Rosie Winterton: My noble friend the Secretary of State was sent a submission on the 23 April to consider who to recommend as the Chair of the North West Development Agency to the Prime Minister.

Official Residences

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Secretary of State has requested the use of an official residence. [299471]

Mr. McFadden: No.

Post Offices: Bank Services

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to enable the Post Office to provide banking services. [298858]

Mr. McFadden: The Post Office already provides a wide range of banking services—including savings, lending, insurance, and foreign exchange. The Prime Minister recently announced that he wanted

> "the Post Office to play a much bigger role, bringing banking services back to the heart of people's communities."

The Government will be taking this forward, in the first instance, by launching a full national public consultation, asking people what banking services they want from the Post Office.

Redundancy: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received on the rate of staff *(a)* voluntary and involuntary redundancies and *(b)* dismissals at each university in Leeds in each of the last five years. [299650]

Mr. Lammy: We have received no representations on this matter. However, as we made clear in "Higher Ambitions", published on 3 November, Government will not become involved in decisions about staffing matters made by universities.

Royal Mail

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many commercial customers Royal Mail has had in *(a)* each of the last six financial years and *(b)* in 2009-10 to date. [298946]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not hold the information requested. I have therefore asked Adam Crozier, Chief Executive of Royal Mail, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries.

Shareholder Executive: Olympic Games

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Shareholder Executive employees attended the Beijing Olympics in an official capacity. [295908]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No Shareholder Executive officials attended the Beijing Olympics.

Small Businesses: Sussex

Mr. Soames: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department is providing to small and medium-sized businesses in *(a)* Mid Sussex constituency and *(b)* West Sussex. [295691]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) provides a full range of business support services to small and medium sized businesses across West Sussex. The support falls into two broad categories:

1. Business support—primarily through Business Link, Manufacturing Advisory Service, Continuous Employment Support Service, and financial assistance delivered through Finance South East.

2. Strategic Business Development and Engagement—comprising of the West Sussex Sub Regional Partnership and the Gatwick Diamond Initiative.

SEEDA recognise East and West Sussex as individual counties. Mid Sussex is one of seven local district authorities which comprise West Sussex. SEEDA do not break down their data into districts and would only be able to separate information on Mid Sussex by carrying out a manual trawl of all the data provided.

Mid Sussex is one of the six district and borough authorities which makes up the Gatwick Diamond for Investment and Growth.

1. Direct support to businesses in West Sussex most of which is available to all businesses across the South East

Business Link

Business Link provides business support and advice for all individuals and businesses already trading or thinking of starting. Benefits include:

Free business health checks, including maximising cash flow, marketing and business planning, debt management, new market and product development.

Access to finance advice, credit crunch presentations and finance clinics.

Guidance and events on how to survive and thrive in difficult times, including advice on reducing energy consumption and costs.

Access to the SEEDA funded resource efficiency programme.

Access to advice and signposting to skills and training opportunities through the 'Train to Gain' service.

Analysis and information on new business opportunities and markets.

Business Link Sussex

SEEDA has invested circa £4,490,000 annually to Business Link Sussex.

Health checks were introduced on 23 October 2008 and are reported on a monthly, cumulative basis. Since that date Business Link Sussex has completed 2,713 health checks across Sussex.

Further figures provided by Business Link Sussex (measured by key performance indicators) show that the number of customers assisted has increased as have the number of intensively assisted customers.

Satisfaction in the service provided by Business Link Sussex has risen by nearly 5 per cent. over a three-year period

Key performance indicator	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Total number of customers assisted	25,315	24,661	27,157
Number of intensively assisted customers	3,145	3,068	3,814
Customer satisfaction (percentage total satisfied)	86	84	90.92

Innovation and growth team—Gatwick Diamond/West Sussex

SEEDA will be investing £2.6 million over three years to the innovation and growth team who will be responsible for creating communities of innovation and growth and delivering specialist services to businesses that have potential for significant growth. Strong partnerships, including the universities of Chichester, Brighton and Surrey, have developed across West Sussex and the Gatwick Diamond. A business plan is being finalised and the innovation and growth team will be operational from 1 January 2010.

Investor development manager (IDM)

SEEDA funds an investor development manager (IDM), Chris Chapman, who works with strategically important companies across all of West Sussex. The investor development manager's objective is to retain and develop these companies, identifying and helping to resolve any barriers to growth. In the last six years, the investor development manager has made nearly 800 company visits to West Sussex businesses. It is estimated that over 2,500 jobs have been gained or saved as a result of this intervention. Referrals have covered a range of topics including:

Planning/premises.

Training and work force development.

Access to a range of Government Departments.

Innovation and sustainability programmes.

Continuous Employment Support Service (CESS)

Between April and June 2009 CESS has helped 10 companies and 664 staff across the whole of Sussex Between July 2009 and September 2009 CESS helped seven companies and 405 staff in West Sussex

Companies thinking about making staff redundant or undertaking a redundancy programme can access the free 'Continuing Employment Support Service' run by Jobcentre Plus in partnership with SEEDA. CESS offers a free in-house package of support to all affected workers before they leave their employment, offering tailored advice on future options.

Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS)

Since January 2009, 70 companies have been assisted through the Manufacturing Advisory Service

MAS South East aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of manufacturers in the region to create sustainable improvements. Businesses can access hands-on advice and tailored support from experts to suit the individual requirements of their business to produce real results.

Inward investment

From April 2007 to April 2009, SEEDA has successfully located six companies into West Sussex

SEEDA has an inward investment team who aim to attract business from other countries to locate in the South East.

Rural

SEEDA manages a £60 million Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) EU Programme (previously termed ERDP). Of this budget, £1,952,647 has been invested into businesses in West Sussex since 18 January 2008.

In addition, the rural leader programme for West Sussex (Sussex and Low Weald) has provided £2.5 million. This wholly EU funded programme is aimed at farmers and forestry diversification with a strong element of community projects.

Grants for research and development

There have been four grants for research and development in West Sussex between 2007-09 totalling £1,126,419

The grants for research and development, now managed by Finance South East are focused on encouraging businesses to carry out projects that they would not necessarily undertake without the grant and lever in to these projects finance from reluctant private investment sources

Finance South East (FSE) accelerator fund

One company in West Sussex has been offered the accelerator fund totalling £100,000

The accelerator fund is a loan fund which supports small and medium sized companies in the South East with the potential for significant growth (early stage or established companies). It is a response to the needs of entrepreneurial businesses who require the level of growth investment provided by risk capital, but which are reluctant to relinquish an equity stake in the company at an early stage.

Transition Loan Fund

One company has been offered the Transition Loan Fund totalling £150,000

SEEDA is providing up to £3 million in a new regional transition fund known as the Bridging Mezzanine Debt Fund to be directed at fully established, viable and growing businesses that are currently facing difficulties in obtaining credit through banks and other traditional routes.

Funding is provided at commercial rates for these unsecured loans, and interest is rolled up and paid at maturity, thereby making the fund attractive to some businesses urgently needing to address liquidity problems.

2. Strategic business development and engagement

West Sussex Sub Regional Partnership

SEEDA provides funding to West Sussex county council which as the accountable body for the West Sussex Economic Skills and Enterprise Board (ESEB). The aim of the ESEB is to bring together key organisations and business representatives to establish shared objectives and priorities to improve the economic well being of West Sussex. The ESEB was set in the context of the developing sub regional partnerships covering Gatwick Diamond, Rural West Sussex and Coastal West Sussex.

Each of these sub regional partnerships is different reflecting the local issues and key stakeholder perspectives. Each has its own governance structure, strategies and action plans. SEEDA is a key partner in all of these partnerships.

West Sussex Sub Regional Partnership specifically:

Works to align regional and local economic strategy to benefit businesses and local stakeholders across West Sussex.

Understands employer issues across West Sussex and makes regional partners aware of these issues and challenges.

Engages with businesses across West Sussex and ensure business needs are reflected in sub regional strategies and emerging actions.

Gatwick Diamond

The Gatwick Diamond Initiative (GDI) is a business led private/public sector joint venture managed by Surrey Economic Partnership and West Sussex Economic Partnership, supported by businesses, SEEDA, local authorities, LSC, Business Link and higher and further education providers to facilitate and co-ordinate actions that will improve the economic performance of the area.

Through the West Sussex Economic Skills and Enterprise Board, SEEDA is providing capacity and operational funding of £100,000 to the Gatwick Diamond Initiative which is matched by local authorities. SEEDA has also funded key studies to benchmark the sub region internationally and a demand study to support proposals for the university centre in Crawley.

The new governance arrangements have been agreed by both the public and private sector. The main board is business-led and SEEDA are well represented across all levels of the new structure.

A strong working relationship continues to develop between Gatwick airport and SEEDA as the airport moves to divest itself from BAA and progresses the sale of the airport. SEEDA is working closely with the airport management team to ensure that the airport continues to play a full role in the economic development opportunities of the Gatwick Diamond.

The university of Brighton, in partnership with SEEDA, Crawley borough council and Central Sussex college are taking a lead role in the creation of a university centre in Crawley that will support educational attainment and progression across the Gatwick Diamond.

SEEDA recognise East and West Sussex as individual counties. Mid Sussex is one of seven local district authorities which comprise West Sussex. SEEDA do not break down their data into districts and would only be able to separate information on Mid Sussex by carrying out a manual trawl of all the data provided.

Mid Sussex is one of the six district and borough authorities which makes up the Gatwick Diamond for Investment and Growth.

Technology Strategy Board

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which applicants have received funding from the Technology Strategy Board's £72 million spending on innovative research and development announced in October 2008. [293029]

Mr. Lammy: The £72 million spending is being delivered through nine specific areas, as follows:

Phase 1, opening 10 November 2008

Photonics: Next Generation Optical Internet Access (1st round)

Advanced Materials: Sustainable Materials and Products

Intelligent Transport Systems and Services: Informed Personal Travel

Phase 2, opening 19 January 2009

High Value Manufacturing: Step Changes in Competitiveness; Value Systems

Energy Generation and Supply: Maximising Recovery of UK's Oil and Gas

Resources—Photonics: Next Generation Optical Internet Access (2nd round)

Low Impact Buildings: Design and Decision Tools

Phase 3, opening 16 March 2009

Creative Industries: Accessing and Commercialising Content in a Digitally Networked World

Energy Generation and Supply: Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Technologies

Network Security: Interdependency, Complexity and Risk.

The Low Impact Buildings: Design and Decision Tools competition (in Phase 2) was delayed until June 2009 and is currently at assessment stage. For the other competition areas, the applicants that have received offers of grant funding will be placed in the Libraries.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 12 November 2009

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* funded into the relationship between standards in animal welfare and farm profitability. [298902]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA's approach to determining the relationship between standards in welfare and farm profitability is to include cost-benefit analysis within research projects. This approach allows any cost to business resulting from a change in management to be assessed against the benefit to the business and the animals concerned.

For example, a current research project aims to re-design the farrowing environment for pigs. The research team will explore how the welfare of the sow might be improved while maintaining good piglet survival. Farm practicality, including acceptable capital and running costs and ease of daily management, are key considerations in the project.

By making economics an integral part of research, DEFRA aims to provide evidence on how welfare standards may be raised while maintaining farm profitability.

Christmas

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on Christmas (i) cards, (ii) parties and (iii) decorations in the last 12 months. [299269]

Dan Norris: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Christmas functions arranged by his Department and its agencies *(a)* he, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* officials of its agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2008; what the cost to the public purse was; and if he will make a statement. [295450]

Dan Norris: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. DEFRA's policy is that official funds should not be used for departmental Christmas parties. Departmental expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with principles set out in Managing Public Money and the HM Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Council Housing: Property Transfers

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much local authority housing debt has been removed following large-scale voluntary transfers since 1997. [299822]

Dan Norris: It has not been possible to reply to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2009. [299547]

Dan Norris: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department's information assurance procedures have been subject to an independent audit. [299375]

Dan Norris: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department was in the last 12 months. [299587]

Dan Norris: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department and its agencies in 2008-09. [299285]

Dan Norris: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with which providers *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies had a contract to provide postal services in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, (iii) between 1 January 2009 and 1 July 2009 and (iv) since 1 July 2009. [299428]

Dan Norris: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department and its agencies on procurement under tender because the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last 12 months. [299150]

Dan Norris: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the statistical datasets collected by his Department are published. [299668]

Dan Norris: It has not been possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department travelled by (i) car, (ii) rail and (iii) air on Government business in each year since 2007. [298553]

Dan Norris: From information held centrally, mileage travelled by Ministers and officials in the core-Department by car, rail and air on Government business in each year since 2007 is:

	Mileage		
	(i) Cars	*(ii) Rail*	*(iii) Air*
April 2006-March 2007	4,264,002	[1]3,030,781	[1]3,583,951
April 2007-March 2008	1,606,006	2,403,478	2,947,395
April 2008-March 2009	1,287,980	2,746,880	1,817,558
April 2009-October 2009	[2]149,932	958,847	1,137,382

[1] July 2006-March 2007

[2] April 2009-August 2009

Information on the split of mileage travelled by Ministers and officials could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively. The Government Car and Despatch Agency is responsible for providing official cars and drivers to Ministers and senior officials. It does not record the mileage of individual journeys for any of the Ministers or senior officials to whom it provides its service. This could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dogs: Research

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the research project commissioned by his Department on the effects of electronic training aids on the welfare of dogs to be completed; how much the research has cost; when he expects to announce his decision on the regulation of the use of electric shock collars; and if he will make a statement. [299540]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Crops

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps his Department is taking to assess the environmental impact of genetically modified crops in England; which research projects have been commissioned or completed since the conclusion of the Government-funded farm scale evaluations, that are designed to repeat or build on the research on the environmental impacts of those trials; and what scientific conclusions were reached; [299814]

(2) if he will assess the implications for his Department's policies on genetically modified foods of the editorial in the Scientific American in July 2009 which asserts that it is impossible to verify that genetically modified crops perform as advertised because agritech companies have given themselves veto power over the work of independent researchers. [299815]

Dan Norris: It has not been possible to reply to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Food

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research projects funded by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council in the last 10 years on which he relies on to fulfil his responsibility to ensure that genetically modified food is safe to eat have been designed specifically to show whether there are risks of adverse health effects for people from the consumption of genetically modified food. [299813]

Dan Norris: It has not been possible to reply to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many genetically modified food trials the Government have licensed *(a)* in each region and *(b)* for each species in each of the last five years; how much his Department has spent on genetically modified food trials in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [299613]

Dan Norris: It has not been possible to reply to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Inland Waterways: Ports

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether his Department has issued guidance on the development of marinas on canals; [300070]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with British Waterways on the development of marinas on canals. [300071]

Huw Irranca-Davies: It has not been possible to reply to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Marketing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on advertising in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [299846]

Dan Norris: It has not been possible to reply to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Medway-Canvey Island Crossing Scheme

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the proposed Medway-Canvey Island Crossing scheme in relation to a *(a)* tidal surge barrier, *(b)* tidal power plant, *(c)* lagoon off Canvey Island and *(d)* other matters; and if he will make a statement. [299309]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency recently consulted on its Thames estuary 2100 tidal flood risk management plan. As part of that consultation a number of comments from stakeholders were received on the possibility of an outer estuary tidal barrage which could incorporate a lower estuary crossing.

One representation was made by a private consortium named Metrotidal. This made specific reference to its own proposals for a crossing, tidal barrage, tidal power plant and flood storage areas. The crossing location it proposed was between Canvey Island in Essex and the Hoo Peninsula in the Medway area. The transcript of its response has been placed in the Library of the House.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 7 October 2009, on cats; [299912]

(2) when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 3 August 2009, transferred from the Treasury PO ref 1/74240/2009, on surface water charges. [299913]

Huw Irranca-Davies: It has not been possible to reply to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Oil: Pollution

Mr. Horam: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the average cost of clearing up an oil spill in England in the last 12 month period for which the information is available; [298258]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of the damage, including damage to the environment, caused by oil spills in England in the last 12 month period for which the information is available. [298259]

Huw Irranca-Davies: No estimate has been made by DEFRA of the average cost of clearing up an oil spill in England, or the cost of the damage caused by oil spills. The Environment Agency adopts the "Polluter Pays Principle" which means that polluters employ contractors directly to clean up pollution. The Environment Agency is not involved with the invoicing and payment between polluter and contractor, and so keeps no record of this activity.

Mr. Horam: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of oil spills at *(a)* residential and *(b)* commercial properties that are not officially recorded by his Department; [298260]

(2) how many oil spills at *(a)* residential and *(b)* commercial premises were recorded by his Department in each of the English regions in the last five years for which figures are available. [298261]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The numbers of oil spills at both residential and commercial premises are set out in the following table. These figures are from the Environment Agency's National Incident Recording System and as such are split into Environment Agency regions.

The Environment Agency cannot estimate the number of oil spills that are not reported. As soon as they are aware of an oil spill, it is officially reported.

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Oil pollution incidents—residential						
EA Wales	32	40	43	36	34	36
Anglian	73	76	68	80	78	59
Midlands	40	40	36	64	51	35
North East	19	26	25	19	22	13
North West	9	21	15	16	16	11
Southern	67	76	73	53	63	38
South West	116	114	108	93	92	83
Thames	30	53	37	40	32	41
Oil pollution incidents—commercial						
EA Wales	97	120	64	60	73	50
Anglian	240	222	177	155	134	90
Midlands	335	220	274	207	255	141
North East	170	161	105	112	113	103
North West	113	108	94	72	56	53
Southern	149	116	86	94	80	85
South West	206	200	190	160	136	100
Thames	164	145	134	97	117	78

Origin Marking: Israel

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 568W, on origin marking: Israel, for what reasons the proposals on labelling of goods originating from Israeli settlements have not been published for public consultation; and when he expects the proposals to be published. [299874]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It has not been possible to reply to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Rivers: Hydroelectric Power

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which organisations the Environment Agency has consulted on the provision of hydro power on rivers. [illegible]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency published Good Practice Guidance for small-scale hydropower schemes in August this year. The British Hydropower Association and fisheries organisations were consulted extensively on its development. The Environment Agency has also established a new forum for stakeholder consultation on hydropower. The first meeting of this group will take place on 18 November 2009. Organisations that have been invited include:

Angling Trust
APEM Ltd
Association of Rivers Trusts
Brecon Beacons National Park
British Hydropower Association
British Waterways
Countryside Council for Wales
Department of Energy and Climate Change
DEFRA
Department of Environment, Northern Ireland
Derwent Hydropower
Ecowatt Systems Ltd
Entec
Fishtek Consulting
Hull University
Jacobs
Lake District National Park
Natural England
Peak District National Park
RSPB
Salmon and Trout association
Scottish Environment Protection Agency
[illegible] Hydropower Company
South Somerset District Council
South Somerset Hydropower Group
South West Rivers Association
Southampton University
The Scottish Executive
Western Energy
WWF

Rodents

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 961W, on rats, when his officials last met the UK pest control industry's rodenticide resistant action group; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 961W, on rats, if he will make an assessment of the implications of the findings contained in the annual reports of the National Pest Technicians Association indicating rising trends in rat numbers for his Department's policies; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 156W, on rodents, whether his Department has reviewed the revised sewer protocols between Thames Water and Yorkshire Water and their respective local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Huw Irranca-Davies: It has not been possible to reply to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

RRV Discovery

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to his Department of operating the research vessel RRV Discovery has been in each of the last five years; and who owns RRV Discovery. [illegible]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I assume the hon. Member is referring to the RRS Discovery which is owned and operated by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and not by DEFRA. Therefore, there are no operating costs to the Department.

Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to establish a marine conservation zone for the Dee estuary. [illegible]

Huw Irranca-Davies: It has not been possible to reply to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Water Charges

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to his Department's press release of 14 July 2009, on surface water drainage charges, what system of surface water charging for voluntary groups is in operation in each water company area. [illegible]

Huw Irranca-Davies: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Email

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 781W, on Members: email, if the Commission will make it its policy to allow Pretty Good Privacy (PGP) software to be installed on hon. Members' computers and ensure that hon. Members' computers are compatible with PGP software. [illegible]

Nick Harvey: No. The service provider has told us that this product is not compatible with software used by Parliament.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Members' Correspondence

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Solicitor-General when she expects to answer question 293952, on Export Credits Guarantee Department support to MW Kellogg Limited, tabled on 14 October 2009. [[illegible]]

The Solicitor-General: This is set out in the answer to question 293952 answered today.

Serious Fraud Office

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Solicitor-General whether the Serious Fraud Office has requested information from the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) on the support provided by the ECGD to MW Kellogg Limited in connection with the LNG Plant at Bonny Island in Nigeria. [293952]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office is investigating the circumstances of the award of an export credit guarantee to MW Kellogg Ltd. in respect of the Bonny Island LNG project and in connection with that investigation, has requested material relating to the application. The SFO has been in contact with the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD).

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Allowance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Leader of the House with reference to the new rules on the Communications Allowance to accompany the new pre-candidacy spending limit, whether hon. Members will be able to reclaim cancellation fees for post-1 January 2010 communications that were booked before the new rules came into force. [[illegible]]

Barbara Keeley: Proposals for a new restriction on the use of Communications Expenditure will be considered by the Members Estimate Committee at its next meeting.

Any necessary guidance will be published by the House to inform Member's decisions.

PRIME MINISTER

Armed Forces

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Prime Minister how many visits he has made to *(a)* repatriation ceremonies for the remains of servicemen, *(b)* the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine, Selly Oak and *(c)* the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre Headley Court in the course of his official duties since June 2007. [[illegible]]

The Prime Minister: Hospital visits to injured personnel are undertaken privately.

Ministers follow the advice of the chiefs on repatriations. At all time the needs of the bereaved must come first.

Community Hero Reception

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister (1) for what reasons he decided to host community hero receptions; [299108]

(2) which hon. Members have *(a)* been invited to nominate community heroes and *(b)* invited nominated community heroes to a reception at 10 Downing Street; [299109]

(3) on what date each community hero reception was hosted at 10 Downing Street; which *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public from each parliamentary constituency attended each such reception; and on what basis invitations to such receptions were issued; [299110]

(4) what the cost to the public purse has been of each community hero reception hosted at 10 Downing Street. [299111]

The Prime Minister: Guidance to Ministers on the use of Government property is set out in section 6 of the Ministerial Code. No costs were attributed to the public purse.

Democratic Reform

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister what steps he plans to take to involve the public in his plans to pursue democratic reform announced on 10 June 2009. [299445]

The Prime Minister: The Government have held a series of five deliberative events on Identity, Values and a possible Bill of Rights and Responsibilities during October. Two further events, both of which will cover a Bill of Rights and Responsibilities and a written constitution, will take place on the 21 and 28 November. There will be a National Deliberative Event on these subjects in the new year.

The Government have also committed to comprehensive reform of the House of Lords to create a second chamber that has a democratic mandate and will bring forward draft legislation for comments setting out plans for a reformed second chamber in the coming months. Following the consultation on "Strengthening Local Democracy", the Government have introduced the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill, which contains provisions to secure greater involvement of people in the workings and decision-making processes of local public authorities. In respect of enhancing representation in our political system, the Government have committed to a referendum to be held early in the next Parliament.

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister how many miles *(a)* he and his predecessor and *(b)* officials in his Office travelled by (i) car, (ii) rail and (iii) air on Government business in each year since 1997. [298537]

The Prime Minister: This information is not held in the format requested. All Ministers' travel arrangements are in accordance with the arrangements for official travel set out in Chapter 10 of the Ministerial Code.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Prime Minister if he will instruct the Iraq Committee of Inquiry to investigate the treatment of former Iraqi locally employed civilians by Government *(a)* departments and *(b)* agencies. [298610]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the statement I gave to the House on 15 June 2009 *Official Report*, column 21, in which I announced the establishment of the Iraq Inquiry. It is for the Chair of the Iraq Inquiry, Sir John Chilcot, in consultation with the other Inquiry Committee members, to decide which specific areas to focus on within their overall remit.

Lord Mandelson

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister on what dates Lord Mandelson of Foy has visited Chequers since his most recent appointment as Secretary of State. [299444]

The Prime Minister: I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others on a wide range of subjects.

A list of guests who have received official hospitality at Chequers is published on an annual basis. For information for the financial year 2008-09 I refer the right hon. Member to the written statement I made to the House on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 70-73WS.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister with reference to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 19W, on ministerial policy advisers, what *(a)* envoys and *(b)* special representatives he has personally appointed since becoming Prime Minister; which of them are still in post; and on what dates those who are no longer serving resigned. [299317]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 10 November 2008 and to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Worthing, West (Peter Bottomley) on 23 October 2008.

In addition, I have appointed Richard Taylor as a Special Envoy on tackling youth violence and knife crime. On 12 February 2009 I appointed my right hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Des Browne) as the Special Envoy for Sri Lanka.

Ministers: Pay

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister how much has been paid to Ministers on leaving the Government since 1997 who have subsequently been re-appointed to a Ministerial post. [298620]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 27W.

TRANSPORT

Automatic Train Protection

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what percentage of the rail network was covered by the train protection and warning system in each of the last 10 years. [299883]

Chris Mole: The Train Protection and Warning System is fitted at around 40 per cent. of signals on the network and at a range of other locations where fitment is required by the Railway Safety Regulations 1999.

The Rail Safety and Standards Board estimates that, as a consequence largely of the fitment of the Train Protection and Warning System, the risks from signals passed at danger on the mainline rail network has reduced by more than 88 per cent. since the March 2001 benchmark level.

Bicycles: Accidents

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the adequacy of legal protection for cyclists in the event of an accident. [299839]

Paul Clark: There have been no recent discussions with ministerial colleagues on the adequacy of the provision of legal protection for cyclists in the event of an accident.

Bus Services: Concessions

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his estimate is of the level of take-up of the Freedom Pass in Islington; and what estimate he has made of the cost of the pass to (i) Islington Borough Council, (ii) London-wide funding bodies and (iii) his Department in each of the last three years. [299804]

Mr. Khan: London freedom passes are administered by London Councils. The Department for Transport does not hold figures for the number of freedom passes issued by individual London boroughs. However, as part of a planned reissue, London Councils reported to the Department that as of April 2009, an estimated 1.188 million concessionary passes were in circulation in London.

(i) Islington borough council's budgeted spend on concessionary travel, as reported to the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) was £5.2 million for 2006-07, £5.5 million for 2007-08 and £5.8 million for 2008-09.

(ii) The total reported concessionary travel spending of all London boroughs was £203 million in 2006-07; £222 million in 2007-08 and the budgeted spend for 2008-09 was £220 million. In addition, London Councils reported in the minutes of their Transport and Environment Committee meeting of 11 December that the additional costs of the national bus concession were forecast to be £5.1 million in 2008-09.

Before April 2008, funding for the mandatory bus concession was provided exclusively through the formula grant system administered by CLG. Formula grant is an unhypothecated block grant, that is, recipient local authorities may use it on any service they wish, providing statutory duties are met. This freedom means that CLG are not able to calculate how much grant has been provided for any particular service (such as concessionary travel).

(iii) In 2008-09, the Department for Transport provided an extra £212 million to fund the extension of the concessionary travel scheme to cover England-wide travel, of which, £55.4 million was provided to London Councils. London Councils reported in the minutes of their Transport and Environment Committee meeting of 11 December that the additional costs of the national bus concession were forecast to be £5.1 million in 2008-09.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the cost to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* London local authorities of the Freedom Pass in each of the last three years. [299816]

Mr. Khan: The freedom pass scheme is the name of the concessionary travel scheme that is operated in London. It incorporates the England-wide bus concession that was introduced in 2008.

Before April 2008, funding for the mandatory bus concession was provided exclusively through the formula grant system administered by CLG. Formula grant is an unhypothecated block grant, that is, recipient local authorities may use it on any service they wish, providing statutory duties are met. This freedom means that CLG are not able to calculate how much grant has been provided for any particular service (such as concessionary travel).

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The total reported concessionary travel spending of all London boroughs was £203 million in 2006-07, £222 million in 2007-08 and the budgeted spend for 2008-09 was £220 million.

Bus Services: Rural Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department has spent on local bus services in rural communities in each of the last 10 years. [299879]

Mr. Khan: The Government provide funding through the rural bus subsidy grant, the rural bus challenge scheme and the kickstart funding scheme to help local authorities support rural bus services in England.

Rural and urban bus services in England are also supported by the Department's bus service operators grant (BSOG—worth over £420 million a year) which is paid to operators of local bus services.

The Government allocate integrated transport (IT) block to local transport authorities in England for capital investment in transport projects, as well as providing grants for major public transport capital projects. These funding sources could be used to support local bus services in rural areas, though as IT block funding is not ring-fenced, local authorities are free to spend their allocations in line with their priorities.

Rural bus services are also supported by local authorities' revenue support grant (RSG) funding. It is for local authorities to decide what bus services to support in their area according to local needs and priorities.

The following table shows the amounts paid over the last 10 years to rural local authorities in England through the rural bus subsidy grant (RBSG), rural bus challenge (RBC) and kickstart schemes in rural areas, and to all English authorities through the IT block allocation.

£ million

	Rural bus subsidy grant	*Rural bus challenge*	*Kickstart scheme (rural areas)*	*IT block allocation*
2000-01	31.7	9.5	—	250.0
2001-02	40.4	12.1	—	542.7
2002-03	46.8	18.2	—	564.6
2003-04	48.0	18.4	—	612.5
2004-05	50.8	18.1	—	658.0
2005-06	53.0	12.0	1.7	552.5
2006-07	54.3	6.3	0.8	547.0
2007-08	55.6	4.5	0.2	571.0
2008-09	57.0	2.5	0.5	576.8
2009-10	58.5	n/a	n/a	589.4
Total	496.1	101.6	3.2	5,464.5

Carbon Emissions: EC Action

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the proposed European legislation which would enforce a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of light commercial vehicles to 175g/km phased in from 2014 to 2016 with a long-term target of 135g/km by 2020. [299776]

Mr. Khan: The European Commission's draft regulation to set binding van CO_2 targets on manufacturers was published on 29 October, along with an Impact Assessment. We strongly welcome the principle of a regulation in this area, and are currently considering the details of the Commission's proposal. We will be consulting stakeholders shortly on its likely impacts.

Departmental Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many civil servants his Department employs; how much his Department spent on *(a)* salaries, *(b)* allowances, *(c)* national insurance and *(d)* pension contributions in relation to civil servants in 2008-09; how much he expects his Department to spend in each category in 2009-10; how many of his Department's civil servants earn more than (i) £66,000 and (ii) £175,000 per annum; how many receive a London weighting; and what the cost to his Department of such weighting was in 2008-09. [299678]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2008-09 identifies the number of civil servants (p. 228) in the Department in 2008-09, as well as planned headcount for the next two financial years.

Total paybill expenditure (p. 227) in 2008-09 is also available but we cannot provide expenditure broken into the requested categories of *(a)* salaries, *(b)* allowances, *(c)* national insurance and *(d)* pension contributions. Such information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Planned expenditure for 2009-10 is unavailable.

For Department for Transport civil servants who earn more than (i) £66,000 and (ii) £175,000 per annum, I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2013W, and to the answer of 9 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 33W.

The information requested on London Weightings can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what percentage of procurement contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies awarded to small businesses in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08, (iii) 2008-09 and (iv) 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [293237]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold the information centrally and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Where the information is available it has been set out in the following table:

Table 1. Percentage of contracts awarded to small businesses of 50 or less employees

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Department for Transport Central[1]	15.29	14.77	8.00	5.00
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	27.27	33.52	30.60	30.90
Government Car and Despatch Agency	66.67	59.67	70.37	[2]—
Driving Standards Agency	13.95	8.47	11.58	6.38

[1] DFTC—figures only include contracts let by the central procurement team and excludes local or low value procurement activity.

[2] The Government Car and Despatch Agency figure for 2009-10 has been excluded as there have been no contracts awarded during this period.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to page 222 of his Department's Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2008-09, under what budget headings the £247 million capital budget for central administration for 2009-10 will be spent. [299031]

Chris Mole: The Department's Capital DEL budget for Central Administration includes the items shown in the following table.

2009-10 plans	*£ million*
Departmental unallocated provision	227
Capital investment in departmental infrastructure	20
Total	247

Departments are encouraged not to allocate their DELs fully against their programmes at the start of a financial year but to hold some provision back to deal with unforeseen pressures. These amounts are then allocated to manage pressures as the year progresses.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what proportion of the statistical datasets collected by his Department are published. [299613]

Chris Mole: As a matter of course, the Department for Transport publishes information from all of its datasets which meet the definition of 'official statistics' set out in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. The statistics are published in accordance with the requirements set out in the "Code of Practice for Official Statistics" and the "National Statistician's Guidance on the Presentation and Publication of Official Statistics".

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the number of 17 to 21-year-olds using motor vehicles on the road network without insurance; and if he will make a statement. [300059]

Paul Clark: There is no estimate of total numbers of 17 to 21-year-olds using a vehicle without motor insurance. In 2006 (latest figures available), based on court findings of those found guilty for the offence, 53,361 offenders were under age 21.

Recent estimates from a comparison of the vehicle registration data held on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's (DVLA) database with the database of insured vehicles maintained by the Motor Insurers' Bureau indicate uninsured driving in the region of 4 per cent. overall.

East Midlands Trains: Standards

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many East Midland Trains rail services have been delayed due to *(a)* rail works and *(b)* system failures in each of the last five years. [296043]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not have an analysis of train delays attributable to rail works or system failures.

Network Rail holds comprehensive performance data, and may be the following address:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London N1 9AG

First Capital Connect

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) whether the Secretary of State has had discussions with First Capital Connect on disruptions to the Sunday service on the Great Northern Line on 7 November 2009; [299615]

(2) what recent discussions the Secretary of State has had with First Capital Connect on disruption to rail services through New Barnet and Oakleigh Park. [299616]

Chris Mole: Ministers have not had discussions with First Capital Connect concerning disruption to the Great Northern route on Sunday 8 November 2009 or disruption to the rail services through New Barnet and Oakleigh Park. First Capital Connect has discussed its plans for dealing with disruptions to services on both the Great Northern and Thameslink routes including services to New Barnet and Oakleigh Park with officials in the Department for Transport. First Capital Connect made these plans available to the travelling public via its website and other communication channels.

The Department continues to monitor the situation and First Capital Connect's contractual commitment.

Invalid Vehicles

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what criteria a mobility scooter is required to meet to be considered roadworthy. [299842]

Mr. Khan: Powered mobility scooters or powered wheelchairs (referred to as "invalid carriages" in legislation) have to comply with specific statutory requirements set down in the Use of Invalid Carriages on the Highway Regulations 1988 in order to be used on the public highway. These regulations divide powered mobility vehicles into two main categories. The Class 2 type can travel at speeds of up to 4mph and is primarily intended for use on the pavement. The unladen weight should not exceed 113.4 kilograms. The Class 3 type can travel at speeds of up to 8mph and can be used on both roads and pavements. Class 3 scooters must have the facility to be driven at no more than 4mph when used on the footpath. The unladen weight should not exceed 150 kilograms. Class 3 vehicles are further required to be registered with the DVLA for use on public roads and display a "nil duty" tax disc.

The regulations also subject Class 2 and Class 3 vehicles to requirements concerning lighting, their means of stopping and to requirements to enable vehicle users to have a full view of traffic and the road ahead.

Invalid Vehicles: Accidents

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many vehicular collisions involving mobility scooters have occurred on roads in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [299841]

Paul Clark: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 999W.

Lorries: Carbon Emissions

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what consideration he is giving to the promotion of carbon emission reductions for heavy duty vehicles; and what percentage of carbon emissions heavy duty vehicles account for. [299777]

Mr. Khan: "Low Carbon Transport: A Greener Future" sets out our transport carbon reduction strategy. Pages 44 to 49 cover HGV and bus technology, while pages 62 to 84 cover our policies promoting smarter choices across all modes.

The strategy is available online at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/carbonreduction/

Buses and HGVs together accounted for 5.4 per cent. of total UK emissions in 2007 (source: National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory).

Motor Vehicles: Urban Areas

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of levels of use of *(a)* cars and *(b)* buses in urban areas in the latest period for which figures are available; [300065]

(2) what estimate he has made of levels of use of motorcycles in urban areas in the latest period for which figures are available. [300063]

Mr. Khan: The following table shows the estimated average number of trips per person per year by the requested modes of travel for people living in urban areas of Great Britain.

This table covers all trips made by urban residents (including children aged under 16), counting travel in or through non-urban areas where this occurs.

Estimated average number of trips per person per year, by mode, for residents of urban areas in Great Britain in 2008

Number of trips

	London boroughs	Metropolitan built up areas	Other urban areas: population over 250,000	Urban areas: population 25,000 to 250,000	Urban areas: population 10,000 to 25,000	Urban areas: 3,000 to 10,000	All urban areas
Car/van driver	216	369	407	440	455	467	391
Car/van passenger	131	214	232	248	248	246	221
Car/van total	347	583	639	688	703	713	613
Motorcycle	[1]—	[1]—	5	4	[1]—	[1]—	4
Local stage bus	135	98	68	47	36	35	71
Other modes	353	299	305	280	320	282	339

Estimated average number of trips per person per year, by mode, for residents of urban areas in Great Britain in 2008

Number of trips

	London boroughs	*Metropolitan built up areas*	*Other urban areas: population over 250,000*	*Urban areas: population 25,000 to 250,000*	*Urban areas: population 10,000 to 25,000*	*Urban areas: 3,000 to 10,000*	*All urban areas*
All modes	838	982	1,017	1,019	1,062	1,035	990
Unweighted sample size (trips)	38,036	50,057	58,383	94,485	27,428	27,290	295,678

[1] Sample sizes are too small for reliable estimates.

Source:

National Travel Survey

Motorcycles: Carbon Emissions

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what consideration was given to including motorcycle policy in his Department's report, "Low carbon transport: a greener future". [300082]

Mr. Khan: The measures set out in "Low Carbon Transport: A Greener Future", the Department's carbon reduction strategy, mean that transport will make a major contribution to meeting the Government's carbon reduction commitments. Motorcycles were not specifically identified in the report, because of their relatively small contribution to total greenhouse gas emissions. We are however currently working with stakeholders on a revising the Motorcycling Strategy, which will consider ways of facilitating motorcycling as a choice of travel within a safe and sustainable transport framework.

Olympic Games 2012: Aviation

Susan Kramer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether any changes are planned to the night flight regime at Heathrow Airport *(a)* during and *(b)* after the London 2012 Olympics. [299893]

Paul Clark: No decisions have been taken about night flights either during the 2012 Olympics or after October 2012, when the current regime is due to end. The number of movements after 2012 will be subject to public consultation before any decision is made.

Olympic Games 2012: Helicopters

Susan Kramer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether any changes are planned to the level of helicopter activity permitted over London *(a)* during and *(b)* after the London 2012 Olympics. [299892]

Paul Clark: The Government are working with the Civil Aviation Authority, NATS (the en-route air navigation services provider) and aviation industry stakeholders to look at all aspects of airspace management for the 2012 Games. This work is at an early stage and no firm decisions have yet been made.

Park and Ride Schemes

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what park and ride schemes have been established in each of the last five years; and which existing schemes have been extended in each of those years. [299885]

Mr. Khan: The following schemes costing over £5 million, which are or include a Park and Ride element, have been or are being funded by the Department for Transport in England over the last five years.

Durham Park and Ride (Durham county council)

Scarborough Integrated Transport Scheme (North Yorkshire county council)

Bridlington Integrated Transport Scheme (East Riding of Yorkshire county council)

Salisbury Transport Package—Petersfinger Park and Ride (Wiltshire county council).

Similar schemes are currently being considered for future funding.

In addition, the Department provides capital funding to local transport authorities for small transport improvements—£589 million in 2009-10. Funding is not ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend allocations in line with their priorities, including on new or extended Park and Ride sites.

Funding for Park and Ride sites in other parts of the United Kingdom are the responsibility of the relevant devolved Administrations.

Railway Stations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what railway stations have been *(a)* built and *(b)* reopened in each of the last 10 years. [299978]

Chris Mole: The following stations were opened or reopened on the national network in the last 10 years:

West Brompton (1999)
Horwich Parkway (1999)
Braintree Freeport (1999)
Luton Airport Parkway (1999)
Dunfermline Queen Margaret (2000)
Brighouse (2000)
Wavertree Technology Park (2000)
Lea Green (2000)
Warwick Parkway (2000)
Howwood (2001)
Beauly (2002)
Newcraighall (2002)
Brunstane (2002)
Edinburgh Park (2003)
Chandlers Ford (2003)
Glasshoughton (2005)
Gartcosh (2005)

Rhoose Cardiff International Airport (2005)
Llantwit Major (2005)
Kelvindale (2005)
Larkhall (2005)
Merryton (2005)
Chatelherault (2005)
Liverpool South Parkway (2006)
Coleshill Parkway (2007)
St. Pancras International (2007)
Ebbsfleet International (2007)
Llanharan (2007)
Ebbw Vale Parkway (2008)
Newbridge (2008)
Risca and Pontymister (2008)
Rogerstone (2008)
Alloa (2008)
Heathrow Terminal 5 (2008)
Mitcham Eastfields (2008)
Llanhilleth (2008)
Crosskeys (2008)
Shepherds Bush (2008)
Aylesbury Vale Parkway (2008)
East Midlands Parkway (2009)
Corby (2009)
Laurencekirk (2009)
Imperial Wharf (2009).

These figures exclude London Underground and heritage railways.

New stations are a devolved matter in Scotland and Wales.

Railways: Disabled

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many and what percentage of railway carriages were accessible to disabled people in each of the last five years. [299882]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not keep statistical information on the year-on-year increase in the accessibility of rail vehicles. The number of regulated rail vehicles currently stands at 35 per cent. of the national rail fleet, but it should be remembered that almost all older rail vehicles have received accessibility improvements when they have been refurbished. All rail vehicles must be compliant by no later than 1 January 2020.

Railways: Franchises

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what alterations he plans to the cap and collar arrangements employed as part of rail franchise agreements to ensure that innovation is not inhibited in times of revenue growth. [296774]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 2 November 2009]*: The Department for Transport is considering the design of the East Coast and the Essex Thameside (c2c) franchises in the run up to these competitions. Any significant changes to current arrangements would be set out in the consultation documents issued in due course as part of the normal franchising process.

Railways: Freight

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much and what proportion of freight was moved by rail in each of the last five years. [299884]

Chris Mole: Freight tonnages moved by rail over the past five years are shown in the following table:

Freight moved, Great Britain

Financial year	*Billion net tonne kilometres*
2004-05	20.35
2005-06	21.70
2006-07	21.88
2007-08	21.18
2008-09	20.63

Source:
Network Rail.

Rail market share figures for freight moved are available for calendar years up to 2007 and are shown in the following table:

Rail market share, Great Britain

	Total market size (billion net tonne kilometres)	*Percentage of total market moved by rail*
2003	251.8	7.4
2004	252.7	8.0
2005	256.5	8.4
2006	251.8	8.8
2007	255.4	8.3

Source:
Department for Transport (DfT), Network Rail, freight operating companies, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

Railways: Public Holidays

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many passenger trains ran on Boxing Day in each of the last four years; and how many are planned to run on Boxing Day 2009. [299787]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold information about which train services were operated on past Boxing Days.

Network Rail is responsible for train running data for the rail industry. My hon. Friend may wish to contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for such information:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

The services planned to be operated on Boxing Day 2009 are publicly available on the National Rail Enquiries website. The address of this website is

http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/

Railways: Repairs and Maintenance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many miles of railway track were replaced in each of the last 10 years. [299881]

Chris Mole: This is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. My hon. Friend should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* fatal and *(b)* serious non-fatal road traffic accidents were recorded in (i) Selby district and (ii) North Yorkshire in each of the last five years. [299784]

Paul Clark: The information requested is given in the table:

Reported personal injury road accidents by county and local authority, accident severity: 2004-08

				Accidents
	North Yorkshire[1]		*Selby*	
	Fatal	*Serious*	*Fatal*	*Serious*
2004	73	609	16	68
2005	81	554	14	44
2006	60	632	10	76
2007	71	595	6	73
2008	40	491	6	59

[1] Includes City of York

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many child road *(a)* deaths and *(b)* serious injuries there were in each year for which figures are available. [299886]

Paul Clark: The data requested is published on the Department for Transport's website. It can be found at the following web address in Table C:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/excel/173025/221412/221549/227755/315281/personalinjury.xls

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many accidents involving *(a)* motorcycles and *(b)* other vehicles there were in urban areas in the latest period for which figures are available. [300064]

Paul Clark: The data requested can be found in Table 23a in Reported Road Casualties Great Britain: 2008 Annual Report. Copies of the report have been deposited in the Libraries of the House. Table 23a can also be found at the following web address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/excel/173025/221412/221549/227755/503336/webtables21-40.xls

Roads: Safety

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what steps his Department is taking to address motorcycle safety; [300066]

(2) what steps he plans to take to increase awareness among car drivers of motorcycles on the roads. [300067]

Paul Clark: The Government's Motorcycling Strategy sets out a range of measures to improve the safety of all powered two-wheel users. It was published in February 2005 and a revised action plan was issued in June 2008. This includes THINK! publicity for powered two wheeler and other road users, improvements to rider training, a safer road environment and safer vehicles and equipment. We are currently working with stakeholders on revising the Motorcycle Strategy.

The Department for Transport is also developing a new Motorcycle THINK! Road Safety campaign to be launched in March 2010. The campaign will build on the previous television campaign, "How Close", which ran between January 2006 and March 2009. The advert reminded drivers to look out for riders. The new campaign will be aimed at drivers and riders. Specific road safety messages and media channels have yet to be confirmed but it is likely television, radio, cinema and partnership marketing will be used.

Rolling Stock

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1611-2W, on rolling stock, what progress has been made in placing the new train orders referred to in the table in the answer; whether the timetable for each order remains as referred to in that table; and if he will make a statement. [299619]

Chris Mole: An order for 120 vehicles for NXEA was placed on 1 April 2009. The procurements for vehicles for London Midland, Stagecoach South West Trains and Thameslink are currently in progress. These are subject to agreement with the train operators concerned and a satisfactory value for money assessment.

In relation to the GoCo vehicles, I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 12-13W.

Shipping: Training

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions he has had with Nautilus International on seafarer training. [299570]

Paul Clark: I regularly meet representatives from all sides of the shipping industry to discuss matters of mutual interest, including training and employment matters.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he plans to make a public response on the joint proposals submitted to his Department by the Chamber of Shipping, Nautilus UK and the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers stimulating seafarer training and employment; and whether his Department has costed these proposals. [299790]

Paul Clark: The Government are committed to maximising employment opportunities for UK seafarers.

The proposals for improving the training and employment opportunities for UK seafarers submitted by the trade unions and industry are being discussed with colleagues across Whitehall. However, even with an increased contribution from industry, funding remains a key issue.

In 2008-09, the Government made available through the Support for Maritime Training (SMarT) scheme some £12.4 million which equated to around 43 per cent. of the training costs of UK officer cadets. The proposals call for an increase to SMarT funding to 100 per cent. of all training costs.

Southern Railway: Franchises

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much in premium payments the Government will receive from Southern Railway Ltd. in respect of the new South Central franchise in each year of the franchise's operation. [299924]

Chris Mole: The new South Central franchise will provide a premium of £534 million Net Present Value over the core five years 10 month franchise length.

The premium profile for the South Central franchise is:

	£000
March 10	[1]1,254
March 11	35,518
March 12	80,297
March 13	122,123
March 14	155,891
March 15	201,211
July 16	[1]80, 801

[1] = part year Nominal £000.

There will be a reduction in premium in Net Present Value over the core five years 10 month franchise length for the Additional Showcase Stations option purchased of £1.6 million and for the GSM-R option purchased of £9.6 million.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects orders for new trains to be placed under the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project. [299617]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is currently planning to award the order around autumn 2010.

Travel: Concessions

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what representations he has received on the future of the Freedom Pass in London, and from whom; how much was spent on the scheme in London in each of the last three years; how much is projected to be spent in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [299216]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 10 November 2009]:* The right to free travel for older and disabled people is enshrined in Primary Legislation.

The Freedom Pass scheme is operated by London Councils on behalf of all 33 London boroughs. The cost of the Freedom Pass is a matter for negotiation between London Councils and Transport for London.

London boroughs have been obliged to offer London-wide travel to their eligible residents since the introduction of the GLA Act in 1999. Therefore the only increase in costs London faced as a result of the improved England-wide bus concession—which was introduced in 2008—was for the cost of non-London residents who are aged over 60 or eligible disabled now travelling free on the London bus network at off-peak times.

It was expected that a sizeable grant would be needed to meet the cost of these non-London resident travellers. However, there have been far fewer of these trips than anticipated.

I have met with London Councils to discuss the special grant funding that has been made available by Government to fund the additional costs of the improved statutory minimum bus concession from April 2008. I have also received letters from a number of London MPs, members of the House of Lords and Councillors of London Boroughs about the special grant funding. Many of these representations were based on misunderstandings over the purpose of the special grant funding.

The purpose of the Special Grant has only ever been to fund the change in the concession referred to above. The majority of funding for concessionary travel continues to be provided through formula grant.

London boroughs report their spending on concessionary travel to the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) as part of their annual local government spending returns. The London Boroughs reported concessionary travel spending of £203 million in 2006-07 and £222 million in 2007-08.

The outturn figures for 2008-09 are not due to be published by CLG until later this month, however the Boroughs' reported concessionary travel budget for 2008-09 was £220 million. For 2009-10 the Boroughs' reported concessionary travel budget is £189 million. 2010-11 budget figures are not due to be published until next year.

London Councils reported in the minutes of their Transport and Environment Committee meeting of 11 December 2008 that the additional costs of the national bus concession were forecast to be £5.1 million in 2008-09. This compares to special grant funding provided to London Councils of £55.4 million in 2008-09.

The projection of special grant funding required in 2010-11 is based on the additional costs that authorities have actually incurred following the change to the statutory minimum bus concession.

Although the new special grant distribution that is currently being consulted on would reduce London's grant, it would leave the London boroughs with significantly more funding than the actual burden that has been imposed by the change in the statutory minimum concession.

Underground Railways: Tyne and Wear

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what mechanisms are in place to assess the record of bidders for the Tyne and Wear Metro service contract in respect of *(a)* treatment of staff and *(b)* health and safety. [299889]

Mr. Khan: The assessment of bidders for operating the Tyne and Wear Metro service is a matter for Nexus (the Tyne and Wear passenger transport executive). It is a condition of the Department for Transport's funding that the procurement process is carried out rigorously and fairly.

West Coast Railway Line

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what funding his Department has provided to upgrade the West Coast Main Line in each year for which figures are available. [299857]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport defined the strategy and outputs required from the upgrade of the West Coast Main Line and authorised funding of £8.9 billion to date for the works to be provided by Network Rail, supported by Government Grant.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Tuition Fees

21. **Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress is being made on the Government's review of tuition fees and student support; and if he will make a statement. [299510]

Mr. McFadden: The Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance was launched on 9 November. The review will be chaired by Lord Browne of Madingley, who will be joined by six other members chosen for the breadth and depth of their experience and expertise. Its primary task is to make recommendations to Government on the future balance of contributions to higher education funding by taxpayers, students, graduates and employers. It will seek a properly and fairly balanced approach, without placing an unreasonable or counter- productive burden on any single source of funding.

Looped Blind Cords

22. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions officials of his Department have had with the British Blind and Shutters Association on the safety of looped blind cords; what progress has been made in such discussions; and if he will make a statement. [299511]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Officials met in July with representatives from the British Blind and Shutter Association. The industry initiative 'Make it Safe—how to reduce the risks from looped blind cords and chains' was discussed. The Department and industry agreed a plan make their guidance available to the widest possible audience, including working with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

Car Scrappage Scheme

23. **Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the effect on the level of car production of the extension of the car scrappage scheme; and if he will make a statement. [299512]

Ian Lucas: It is not possible to make an accurate estimate of the impact on production of the extension of the scrappage scheme because of unknown commercial factors such as the levels of existing stocks and production time lags.

Regional Development Agencies

24. **Phil Wilson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assistance regional development agencies are providing to businesses during the economic downturn; and if he will make a statement. [299513]

Ian Lucas: The RDAs have helped more than 50,000 businesses to survive the recession, and are bringing forward regeneration projects worth more than £100 million in order to boost the economy. They have also provided transition loans to 300 companies, protecting more than 10,000 jobs.

Free Trade Agreement: Colombia

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on a mandate for the European Commission to negotiate a free trade agreement with Colombia. [299504]

Ian Lucas: Negotiations between the EU and the Community of Andean Nations were launched in 2007. The mandate was last revised in December 2008 when, as the Andean nations could not agree a common position, Colombia and Peru asked the European Commission to negotiate a multiparty trade agreement with interested Andean countries. Ecuador remains an observer.

Basic Skills

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many benefit claimants have skills accounts. [298719]

Kevin Brennan: Skills accounts are being trialled in the South East, East Midlands, West Midlands, South West and Yorkshire and the Humber regions of England. Skills accounts are available to all adults in these regions. The purpose of the trials is to test, on a small scale, the effectiveness of skills accounts as a means of engaging and motivating adults to take up training. Within the trials, skills accounts are being tested with a range of different customer groups, including benefit claimants. An individual's benefit status is not collected when an account is opened, but is confirmed when an individual takes up a course at a college or training provider.

Building Colleges for the Future Programme

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects a decision to be made on the outstanding bids for capital funding under the Building Colleges for the Future programme. [287312]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 16 July 2009]:* On 28 August, following the conclusion of its prioritisation exercise, the LSC confirmed that 12 college projects would commence immediately with their new building projects. Approval for the two remaining projects for Manchester (Wythenshawe) College and Skelmersdale and Ormskirk College was given in September.

13 of the 14 projects have now begun on site.

For those colleges that will not be funded this round, the next steps have already started with the LSC consulting with the sector to agree a robust, fair and transparent process for future capital investment.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received from the brick manufacturing industry on the adequacy of financial and other business support available to that industry; and if he will make a statement. [299439]

Ian Lucas: I have received no representations from the brick manufacturing industry on these matters. My officials are however in regular contact with the Construction Products Association (the umbrella trade association for nearly all construction products), of which the brick industry is a member, and have met members of the brick industry.

Business: South West

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses received assistance from the South West Regional Development Agency in each local authority area in each of the last five years; and how many employees each such business had at that time. [297846]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The South West Regional Development Agency has provided assistance to businesses as set out in the following table and is reported in its annual report and accounts. It does not record these figures by local authority area, nor does it record the number of employees of the businesses concerned.

	Number
2005/06	[1]8,766
2006/07	15,898
2007/08	16,163
2008/09	17,928

[1] Business Link figures not included.

Note:

The definition used in the figures above is two days advisory consultancy or grant or equivalent of at least £1,000.

The agency also engages with businesses in a variety of other ways including area action force work and the regional enterprise gateway. Business Link provides the primary channel for business support within the region, with 103,000 businesses accessing support during 2008/09.

Carers: Training

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much expenditure has been assigned to cover the costs of the £500 training entitlement for carers and adults on the working tax credit, as referred to in the New Opportunities White Paper, Cm 7533. [299731]

Kevin Brennan: The total budget for this entitlement is £9.2 million which is split equally across the financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Disabled People

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which organisations representing disabled people Ministers in his Department have met in 2009; and with which of those organisations the delays in the payment of student loans and grants was discussed. [299750]

Mr. McFadden: BIS (and prior to that DIUS) Ministers met a number of organisations that brought concerns about people with disabilities to their attention. Of organisations representing disabled people specifically, both Lord Young and Siôn Simon held meetings with the RNIB. Lord Young also met Skill (National Bureau for Students with disabilities), Natspec (Association of national Specialist Colleges) and the Alliance for Inclusive Education. Siôn Simon also met the RNID and Scope. In none of these meetings was the question of student loans or grants discussed.

Exports: White Phosphorus

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 339W, on exports: white phosphorus, in respect of which countries of destination a licence was granted for export of white phosphorus in the *(a)* ML3a and *(b)* ML4a category. [298705]

Ian Lucas: As previously stated the Export Control Organisation in BIS had identified 67 licences for munitions designed to create illumination or act as an incendiary. These munitions may have contained white phosphorous but because the export licence application does not require the exporter to provide the chemical composition of munitions to be exported, it is not possible to say how many—if any—of those 67 actually related to the export of military devices containing white phosphorous. However the 67 licences referred to were issued for exports to the following countries:

Abu Dhabi (part of United Arab Emirates)
Afghanistan
Australia
Bermuda
Brazil
Brunei
Canada

Cyprus
Denmark
Estonia
Germany
Greenland
Honduras
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
India
Iraq
Irish Republic
Israel
Italy
Jordan
South Korea
Kuwait
Latvia
Lithuania
New Zealand
Norway
Pakistan
Saudi Arabia
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Sri Lanka
Thailand.

Fireworks

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what steps he *(a)* has taken since 2000 and *(b)* plans to take during the next six months to inform the public of (i) the dangers of fireworks and (ii) the effects of fireworks on animals; what discussions he has had with the fireworks industry about this issue; what recent representations he has received on fireworks safety; and if he will make a statement; [298272]

(2) what steps his Department plans to take to reduce the number of children injured by fireworks; and if he will make a statement. [298275]

Kevin Brennan: BIS has responsibility for firework safety and legislation and the promotion of safe and responsible use of fireworks. The Department has been running an annual fireworks safety campaign for many years, and this year we are working with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) to promote our safety messages.

This year's fireworks safety campaign period has been running since the start of the Hindu Diwali festival last month and leads up to this week's Bonfire night festivities. We are aiming our safety messages at families and young children to promote the fireworks code and reduce the risk of injuries to children.

DCSF will be promoting child safety during the firework season and we have been working with them to communicate our general firework safety messages. We have also been running TV and radio advertising, and promoting our fireworks website:

www.direct.gov.uk/fireworks

The website contains free resources for parents, schools, retailers and enforcers to download to help with the promotion of the safe use of fireworks.

Our safety messages include a leaflet published in conjunction with DEFRA and the Blue Cross called "Fireworks and Safety" which details how to keep pets safe and our site also links to the Blue Cross website.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group were (i) injured and (ii) killed by fireworks in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [298274]

Kevin Brennan: Figures for injuries recorded by age for the last available five years are shown in the following table. Figures are not available broken down by sex and age. There were no fatalities in this period.

Age group	*2005*	*2004*	*2003*	*2002*	*2001*
Over 20	422	516	482	380	508
18 to 20	69	79	66	54	67
13 to 17	213	197	220	230	337
Under 13	281	368	368	353	450
Not known	6	0	0	0	0
Total injuries	990	1,160	1,136	1,017	1,[illegible]

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies are authorised to *(a)* manufacture and *(b)* sell fireworks; and if he will make a statement. [298463]

Kevin Brennan: The Health and Safety Executive have authorised 42 companies to manufacture fireworks. Manufacture in this case includes the preparation, assembly, disassembly and fusing of firework displays away from the place of intended use.

Information on the number of companies authorised to sell fireworks is not held centrally.

Further Education

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many 19 to 24 year-olds are studying *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time on first Level 2, first Level 3, subsequent Level 2 and subsequent Level 3 qualifications. [298473]

Kevin Brennan: Table 1 shows LSC-funded further education participation by mode of attendance and level, for learners aged between 19 and 24 in 2008/09 (provisional).

In 2007/08, of the 740,100 adult learners (aged 19+) participating on full level 2 courses, 542,800 were first full level 2. Of the 328,100 adult learners (aged 19+) participating on full level 3 courses, 248,000 were first full level 3. Provisional full- year learner numbers for 2008/09 were published in a statistical first release on 22 October 2009:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfroct09

Supplementary information, including participation on first full level 2 and first full level 3 qualifications in 2008/09 will be available shortly. Information on first full level 2 and first full level 3 specifically for 19 to 24-year-olds is not published.

Table 1: LSC-funded participation for learners aged between 19 and 24, by mode of attendance and level in 2008/09 (provisional)

	Full-time full-year	Full-time part-year	Part-time	Unknown	Total learners
Total learners aged 19 to 24	90,500	32,500	620,000	900	743,900
of which:					
Full level 2	20,000	1,900	225,900	—	247,700
Full level 3	43,200	800	129,600	—	173,600

Notes:
1. Source data includes ASL, LR and ER ILR datasets.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred, and may not sum to total due to rounding. "—" indicates a figure of less than 50.
3. Age is based on academic age, at 31 August of the academic year.
4. Part-time includes part-time distance learning, open learning, E-learning and evening learning.
5. FE students classified for statistical purposes as full-time are defined as those enrolled on programmes of at least 450 guided learning hours per year, or for at least 150 guided learning hours per tri-annual period or more than 16 guided learning hours per week for shorter courses. Full-time students who enrol on a programme of at least 450 guided learning hours per year are classified as full-time full-year. This includes those students who withdraw from the programme during the year and actually attend for less than 450 guided learning hours. Also counted as full-time full-year are students who enrol on programmes of less than 450 guided learning hours but stay longer than expected and actually attend for more than 450 guided learning hours. Full-time students who are not classified as full-time full-year are classified as other full-time. All other students are classified as part-time.

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people who had been in local authority foster care in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* local authority (i) enrolled in and (ii) completed a further education course in each of the last five years. [298793]

Kevin Brennan: Information is not captured on the number of young people in foster care that enrol or complete a further education course.

Information on the number of young people participating and achieving in further education is given in a statistical first release, the latest version of which was published on 22 October:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrnov09

Further Education: Government Assistance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many career development loans are expected to be made available in the *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 academic year. [299732]

Mr. Lammy: We currently have a portfolio of £65 million this financial year 2009-10 which when based on the current average loan value of £6,441 provides for 10,092 loans. We are pleased with the engagement from two banks—Barclays and the Co-operative. This gives us a good platform to build on and to ensure that supply meets the demand we expect over the coming years for PCDLs.

Grocery Trade: Competition

Andrew George: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when the Secretary of State will respond to the Competition Commission following its referral to him on 4 August 2009 in respect of its Grocery Market Inquiry. [299645]

Kevin Brennan: The Competition Commission's (CC) recommendation of 4 August on the establishment of a Groceries Supply Code of Practice (GSCOP) Ombudsman raises a number of complex and important issues for the grocery market and also to consumers and the wider economy. We will be responding shortly.

Andrew George: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Office of Fair Trading in ensuring fair trading throughout the grocery supply chain. [299656]

Kevin Brennan: It is not the role of Ministers to monitor its effectiveness. The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) is an independent competition authority.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many of the 10,000 additional student places available in 2010-11 will be for first-year students. [299734]

Mr. Lammy: HEFCE is still in the process of allocating funded additional student numbers (ASN) to institutions for 2010-11. Until that process is completed it is not known what the balance will be between places for new entrants and places to meet the needs arising from previous years' expansion.

Inward Investment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many inward investment projects have been established in each region in each of the last 20 years; [299707]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of jobs created through inward investment in each region in each of the last 20 years. [299706]

Ian Lucas: I have arranged for separate listings of UKTI's (and its predecessors') recorded inward investment successes by UK regions for each of the last 20 years to be placed in the Libraries of the House. Figures for London are available only from when an RDA for London was established in 1994-95.

These figures are based on information provided by companies at the time of the announcement of the decision to invest in the UK. They are based on the companies' best estimates of the number of new and safeguarded jobs associated with each investment.

There is no requirement on companies to notify inward investment decisions to UKTI, so the figures include only those projects where UKTI or its regional partners were involved or which have come to their notice.

Manufacturing Industries: Minerals

John Thurso: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* contribution to the economy of the UK lime manufacturing industry and *(b)* the economic viability of that industry; and if he will make a statement. [299372]

Mr. Timms: My Department has not prepared an assessment of the lime manifacturing industry, and does not therefore have a view on the economic viability of that industry. The Department does not have the resource to take a view on every industry, but does take a reactive approach when circumstances warrant such action.

Manufacturing Insight: Finance

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding Manufacturing Insight has obtained from the private sector. [299378]

Ian Lucas: EEF, the Manufacturers Association has allocated £35,000 per annum for two years towards start-up costs, as part of a package of core funding, which is to come from the wider business community.

Manufacturing Technology Centre: Ansty

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the role of the Manufacturing Technology Centre at Ansty is; what estimate he has made of the number of jobs to be created at the Centre; what funding his Department has allocated to the Centre; what projects the Centre is undertaking; and if he will make a statement. [299763]

Ian Lucas: The Manufacturing Technology Centre at Ansty Park near Coventry will be a world-class manufacturing research, development and demonstration organisation which will support industrial companies, and their supply chains, in bringing about major improvements in their manufacturing competitiveness. The centre represents a £130 million investment over 10 years, and should employ between 100 and 150 highly skilled staff. The Government have allocated over £40 million to the centre through grant funding from Advantage West Midlands and the East Midlands Development Agency. Initially, 20 projects have been identified to use the new centre.

The centre represents one of the largest investments in a manufacturing research facility for many years and will help UK businesses and universities to test out new and innovative products and processes on an industrial scale—cementing our position as a world-class manufacturing nation.

Mass Media: Insolvency

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* regional and *(b)* local newspapers have become insolvent in each year since 1997. [294290]

Ian Lucas: The industry classifications the Insolvency Service uses do not readily identify newspapers. Table 1 shows insolvencies for manufacturing pulp, paper and paper products, publishing and printing, within which newspaper production is counted.

Table 1

	Compulsory Liquidation	*Creditors Voluntary Liquidation*	*Receiverships*	*Administrations*	*Creditors Voluntary Arrangement*	*Self-Employed Bankruptcy Orders*
1997	110	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	104
1998	118	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	100
1999	101	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	112
2000	106	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	88
2001	69	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	75
2002[1]	109	321	n/a	n/a	n/a	70
2003	78	247	n/a	n/a	n/a	58
2004	93	236	n/a	n/a	n/a	63
2005	90	196	n/a	n/a	n/a	67
2006[2]	60	158	n/a	n/a	n/a	78
2007[3]	17	103	1	48	3	9
2008	35	232	6	129	13	25

n/a = Not Available

[1] Creditors Voluntary Liquidations figures by industry only available from Q2 2002

[2] Data only available for Q1-Q3 2006 due to a change in industry classification

[3] Data only available for Q3-Q4 2007 due to a change in industry classification

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many cars have been purchased under the scrappage scheme in *(a)* Tamworth constituency, *(b)* Staffordshire and *(c)* the West Midlands. [295908]

Ian Lucas: Using data based on the locations of dealerships and data for scrappage transactions which have been completed and vehicles delivered, there have been 379 completed scrappage transactions in Tamworth constituency, 1,973 in Staffordshire and 15,190 in the West Midlands.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the car scrappage scheme on the number of vehicles sold in the UK by each manufacturer; how much funding his Department has allocated to the scheme to date; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Ian Lucas: BIS has made no such assessment. According to latest industry figures published on 5 November 2009, the vehicle scrappage scheme has contributed to the fourth month of growth for new car registrations, with the October figures showing this year's biggest monthly increase. The recent £100 million addition to the original £300 million Government funding will extend the positive impacts on the automotive sector and wider manufacturing into next year.

Palm Oil

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department was represented at the most recent Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil meeting; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Mr. McFadden: The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil annual meeting (2 to 4 November 2009) was attended by a Government official from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office posted to the South East Asia region. FCO officials work closely with counterparts in the UK to represent wider government interests and to keep policy makers informed of relevant developments abroad.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he last discussed the use of sustainable palm oil with *(a)* ministerial colleagues, *(b)* representatives of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, *(c)* representatives of the palm oil industry, *(d)* representatives of environmental non-governmental organisations and *(e)* officials of other Government Departments; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Mr. McFadden: In the last month, Ministers from DEFRA and DECC have met with UK based businesses who are members of the RSPO and with international NGOs on forestry and palm oil. Engagement with these groups and other governments will continue as the UK Government works to support sustainable production and consumption of palm oil.

Real Help Website

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to promote the [illegible]

Ian Lucas: The Department has promoted the Real Help website

www.realhelpnow.gov.uk

through the homepage of the BIS website

www.bis.gov.uk

the relevant pages of the BIS corporate website:

www.berr.gov.uk/aboutus/corporate/performance/realhelpnow/page51801.html

and through the Business Link website

www.businesslink.gov.uk

Business Link is also actively promoted by Ministers, including the Minister for Regional Economic Development and Co-ordination, at regional events.

Royal Mail

John Thurso: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on financial and legal advice in respect of the proposed sale of shareholdings in Royal Mail in the last two years. [299483]

Mr. McFadden: The Department spent £4.6 million on financial and legal advice to take forward the implementation of the Hooper Review's recommendations (which included work on securing a minority strategic partner for the Royal Mail).

Train to Gain Programme

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the extent to which training under the Train to Gain programme has been duplicated by employers. [290271]

Kevin Brennan: The June 2009 Train to Gain Wave 4 employer survey estimates duplication and substitution to be 12 to 14 per cent. of training provided through Train to Gain a few months after the employer had been in contact with the service but only 5 per cent. a year later. This means that over 90 per cent. of employers who commit to Train to Gain training see an increase in the quantity or quality of training activity as a result.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Learning and Skills Council on shifting funding for Train to Gain spending from an academic year to a financial year. [299733]

Mr. Lammy: Ministers in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills hold regular meetings with officials from the Learning and Skills Council and a wide range of issues are discussed. The Skills Investment Strategy, due to be issued shortly, will set out as in previous years the planned investment in adult further education and skills for 2010-11 financial year and learner volumes on an academic year, including for the Train to Gain programme.

Train to Gain Programme: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding support for the *(a)* Train to Gain and *(b)* Skills for Life programme (i) was provided in 2008-09 and (ii) is to be provided in 2009-10 to each receiving college in the Leeds area. [294017]

Kevin Brennan: The national spend on Train to Gain for 2008-09 and Skills for Life for 2007-08, I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1049W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Newcastle upon Tyne, Central (Jim Cousins).

We do not hold information on LSC spend by region centrally. I have asked the chief executive of the LSC to write to you giving details of the funding provided to each college in Leeds with a copy being placed in the House.

UK Trade and Investment

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what quantified targets UK Trade and Investment used in relation to its objective of attracting *(a)* high value, *(b)* good quality and *(c)* priority projects in each of the last four years. [295051]

Ian Lucas: Foreign Direct Investment targets according to *(a)* high value, *(b)* good quality and *(c)* priority project classifications have only been used for the last two years. Previously, UKTI has benchmarked against knowledge driven targets.

	Target
2005/06	374 successes, of which 75 per cent. are knowledge driven
2006/07	440 successes, of which 75 per cent. are knowledge driven
2007/08	UKTI involved in 525 projects, of which 125 are high value, 285 good quality and 115 regional development agency (RDA) priority
2008/09	UKTI involved in 525 projects, of which 125 are high value, 285 good quality and 115 RDA priority

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies which have received support from UK Trade and Investment in each of the last four years can be classified as involved in *(a)* low carbon technologies and *(b)* advanced engineering. [295080]

Ian Lucas: The information is as follows:

(a) The UK Low Carbon International Marketing Strategy, being developed by UK Trade and Investment in partnership with business, aims to help companies with low carbon solutions across the whole economy to make the most of overseas opportunities. Reporting of such support is being set up as part of the roll-out of the strategy across UKTI this year.

(b) UKTI's Advanced Engineering Sector team came into being in April 2007 as a result of bringing together UKTI support, on trade as opposed to investment services, for the aerospace, automotive and engineering sectors. In the two years since then, UKTI helped 920 companies in 2007/08 and 1,133 companies in 2008/09.

Unemployment: Young People

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of people aged 16 to 24 years old were not in education, employment or training in each local authority area in the South East in each of the last 12 quarters for which figures are available. [299525]

Kevin Brennan: Table 1 shows the number and percentage of people aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training in local education areas (LEA) in the south-east in 2006 to 2008. These estimates are from the Annual Population Survey.

Due to small sample sizes, estimates cannot be provided small areas on a quarterly basis or for areas smaller than LEAs. Please note that these estimates are subject to large sampling variability and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with their Confidence Intervals (CIs), which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a CI of+/-4.6 percentage points (pp) means that the sampling variability ranges from 4.6pp above the estimate and 4.6pp below the estimate. Confidence Intervals for table 1 have been provided as follows.

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

Table 1: Numbers and percentages of people aged 16 to 24 not in employment, education or training

	Number			*Proportion of all 16 to 24-year-olds*			*Confidence intervals (CI) in percentage points (+/-)*		
LEA	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Bracknell Forest[1]	1,000	1,000	2,000	10.9	10.8	13.1	4.7	5.2	6.2
Brighton and Hove	4,000	5,000	4,000	11.2	13.3	11.6	4.8	4.7	4.4
Buckinghamshire	5,000	4,000	5,000	10.6	9.9	10.5	5.2	5.8	5.4
East Sussex	4,000	7,000	8,000	8.8	15.2	16.8	5.2	6.0	6.2
Hampshire	14,000	19,000	16,000	10.5	14.1	11.3	3.1	3.6	3.3
Isle of Wight	2,000	2,000	2,000	16.9	12.7	17.5	6.1	5.4	6.6
Kent	23,000	24,000	25,000	15.9	17.1	17.5	3.6	3.8	4.0
Medway	5,000	4,000	5,000	15.8	12.0	17.7	5.4	4.8	6.1
Milton Keynes	3,000	4,000	2,000	15.6	13.6	9.1	6.8	5.9	5.3
West Berkshire	3,000	2,000	1,000	18.5	11.1	9.1	6.9	5.9	5.7
Oxfordshire	7,000	11,000	6,000	9.1	13.6	7.6	4.0	4.9	3.5
Portsmouth	4,000	3,000	3,000	15.4	9.4	8.2	5.3	4.1	3.7
Reading	2,000	2,000	2,000	15.1	11.0	11.4	5.9	4.6	5.4
Slough	3,000	2,000	2,000	18.2	14.9	14.4	5.3	5.1	5.1
Southampton	6,000	6,000	4,000	13.9	18.1	10.0	4.4	6.0	4.4
Surrey	9,000	12,000	8,000	8.6	11.0	7.6	3.2	3.8	3.1
West Sussex	9,000	8,000	8,000	13.2	11.1	11.2	4.4	3.9	4.2
Windsor and Maidenhead	1,000	2,000	1,000	12.2	14.5	10.1	5.7	6.8	3.6
Wokingham	2,000	[1]—	2,000	8.9	[1]—	11.4	4.3	[1]—	6.31

[1] Numbers are unavailable. *Note:* Age used is the respondents' academic age, which is their age at the preceding 31 August.

Vocational Training

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the timetable is for the national roll-out of skills accounts; and if he will make a statement. [2997[illegible]]

Kevin Brennan: Skills accounts are being trialled, as planned, in the south east, east midlands, west midlands, south west and Yorkshire and the Humber regions of England. The purpose of the trials is to test the effectiveness of skills accounts as a means of engaging and motivating adults to take up training. These national trials will be extended to cover all of England by January 2010.

Learning from evaluation which is already underway, we will implement a national system of skills accounts from August 2010 alongside the launch of the adult advancement and careers service.

Vocational Training: West Midlands

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding support under the *(a)* Train to Gain and *(b)* Skills for Life programme (i) was provided in 2008-09 and (ii) is to be provided in 2009-10 to each receiving college in the West Midlands. [293774]

Kevin Brennan: The national spend on Train to Gain for 2008-09 and Skills for Life for 2007-08, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1049W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Newcastle upon Tyne, Central (Jim Cousins).

We do not hold information on LSC spend by region centrally. I have asked the chief executive of the LSC to write to you giving details of the funding provided to each college in the west midlands with a copy being placed in the House.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Andrew Selous: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to answer question 262066, on Dunstable College, tabled on 5 March 2009. [299612]

Kevin Brennan: Due to an administrative error, question 262066 was not answered by the former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills despite a draft reply being approved by Ministers. The question has now been answered. I apologise for this error.

However, the Learning and Skills Council's then chief executive, Mark Haysom, did write in response to question 262066 on 23 March 2009. A copy of the letter was placed in the House Library on the 31 March 2009.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Aberdeen

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he last visited Aberdeen on official business. [299537]

Joan Ruddock: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is scheduled to visit Aberdeen later this month.

Annual Report on the State of Security in the Civil Nuclear Industry

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the five incidents were that were made under section 10 of the Nuclear Industry Security Regulations 2003 and which warranted further investigation, as referred to in paragraph 12, pages 3 to 4, of the Annual Report on the State of Security in the Civil Nuclear Industry April 2008-March 2009. [298665]

Mr. Kidney: This information is not releasable for national security reasons.

The criteria for determining whether information is releasable is described in the "Finding a Balance" document published on the Health and Safety Executive website. The objective of this document is to prevent the disclosure of sensitive nuclear information that could assist a person or group planning theft, blackmail, sabotage and other malevolent or illegal acts. It identifies categories of information which should not be disclosed, provides reasons for protecting this information and indicates the appropriate protective marking to be afforded to such information.

Carbon Emissions: Housing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has taken steps to help park home residents reduce their emissions and heating bills. [298362]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 9 November 2009]*: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Carbon Incentive Scheme

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to implement a personal carbon incentive scheme; when the scheme will be introduced; and how it will operate. [299068]

Joan Ruddock: It has not proved possible to reply to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Christmas

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in the last 12 months. [299270]

Joan Ruddock: It has not proved possible to reply to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Climate Change: Conferences

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the contribution from the Minister of State of 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1090-91, on climate change, for what reasons he is seeking an agreement on a reduction of the use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) at the Copenhagen climate change summit rather than a ban on HFCs; and if he will make a statement. [299239]

Joan Ruddock: It has not proved possible to reply to the hon. Member before prorogation.

Climate Change: International Cooperation

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the Government's position on proposals to be made at the Copenhagen climate change summit on protection of biological diversity of the rainforests, with particular reference to measures to prevent the conversion of natural forests to forest palm oil plantations. [297242]

Joan Ruddock: My right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for DECC and DEFRA meet regularly to discuss strategy for Copenhagen UNFCCC summit, including on forestry. Forest mitigation and biodiversity should go hand in hand. Our objective is a climate agreement in Copenhagen whose provisions support a big reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from forest degradation and deforestation, whilst protecting and conserving forest biodiversity, promoting the sustainable production and use of forest resources. As part of these talks, safeguards against the conversion of natural forests to plantations are being discussed and we are seeking the strongest possible outcome on this.

Coal

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the future for clean coal in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [298157]

Mr. Kidney: The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan, published on 15 July 2009, identified coal-fired power stations fitted with Carbon Capture and Storage as an important low carbon electricity source for the future.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change announced on 23 April 2009 plans to accelerate the demonstration and deployment of carbon capture and storage on coal fired power stations in the UK. The Government set out their proposals in the consultation "A framework for the Development of Clean Coal", which closed on 9 September. The response to the consultation was announced to the House and published on 9 November. It is available on the DECC website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/clean_coal/clean_coal.aspx

Coal: Imports

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the quantity of carbon dioxide emissions arising from the import of coal to the UK in the latest period for which figures are available. [297697]

Joan Ruddock: This information is not available.

Coal: North East

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of tonnes of coal reserves in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK. [298355]

Mr. Kidney: The Coal Authority estimates that the UK has 3,405 million tonnes (Mt) of coal resources.

Of this 260 Mt is economically recoverable coal in the 'reserves category' (i.e. proved and probably mineable coal) at current deep mines and sites subject to conditional deep mine licences.

A further 70 Mt are at existing surface mines, those with planning approval granted and those currently in the planning process.

Estimates suggest there to be 260 Mt of previously proven reserves remaining in closed deep mines still in licence. A further 2,030 Mt of potential deep mine prospects and 785 Mt at potential surface mine prospects, including those in pre-planning and resources within former conditional licences.

The Coal Authority has confirmed that the following reserves are available in the north-east:

Coal remaining in licence:

Surface mines

Potland Burn 2.03 Mt (Northumberland)
Shotton 2.49 Mt (Northumberland)
Steadsburn 0.80 Mt (Northumberland)
Park Wall North 1.27 Mt (Durham)
Total 6.59 Mt

Underground

Ayle Colliery 0.09 Mt (Northumberland)—still open
Ellington 1.92 Mt (Northumberland)—closed
Total 2.01 Mt

Sites approved or in planning:

Surface mines

Approved

Prestwick Pit Remainder 0.03 Mt (Northumberland)
Planning
Bradley 0.56 Mt (Durham)
Brenkley Lane 2.40 Mt (Newcastle)
Butterwell 1.10 Mt (Northumberland)
Halton Lea 0.14 Mt (Northumberland)
Total 4.2 Mt

Note: There may be other reserves with surface mining potential which have not been appraised to the planning application stage at present.

Underground

There are no underground reserves in this category.

Underground mine prospects identified by British Coal:

Amble 50 Mt (Northumberland)
East Durham 200 Mt (Durham)

Neither of these prospects were developed to the planning application stage by British Coal.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on advertising for tenders for the administration of the two miners' compensation schemes. [298790]

Mr. Kidney: No money was spent advertising as the tender was publicised through the standard EU procurement process.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many first-class flights were taken by each Minister in his Department in 2008-09; and what the *(a)* origin, *(b)* destination and *(c)* cost was of each such flight. [298754]

Joan Ruddock: Details of flights taken in 2008-09 by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and other DECC Ministers is available on the Cabinet Office website at the following link:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/226022/travel_2008_2009.pdf

All travel by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and his ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2009. [299538]

Joan Ruddock: The percentage of invoices from suppliers paid within 10 days of receipt was:

(a) 85.1 per cent. in September; and

(b) 92.7 per cent. in October 2009.

Departmental Conferences

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 401W, on departmental conferences, what the cost to his Department was of the *(a)* regional delivery of biomass heat and power conference on 29 October 2008, *(b)* London meeting of international energy and oil Ministers on 18 and 19 December 2008, *(c)* hydrogen workshop on 29 January 2009, *(d)* stakeholder workshop on 30 January 2009, *(e)* business forum held in Ashgabat on 4 February 2009, *(f)* advanced power generation technology forum annual workshop on 11 and 12 February 2009 and *(g)* launch of the consultation on Heat and Energy Saving Strategy event on 12 February 2009; which (i) Ministers and (ii) senior officials participated in each event; what the names of the attendees at each of those events were; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the (A) agenda and (B) minutes of each event. [290276]

Joan Ruddock: The information is as follows:

(a) Cost £17,938. My right hon. and noble Friend the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change and Simon Virley (DECC) were present.

(b) I refer to written answer 267996 of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 305W.

(c) Cost £442. No Ministers or senior officials were present.

(d) This event was not organised by DECC.

(e) Costs £4,654. No Ministers were present from the UK. John Neve (DECC), and Peter Butcher the British ambassador attended.

(f) Details of this event are not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

(g) Cost £22,013. My right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for DECC and CLG, the Minister for Housing, my right hon. and noble Friend the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change and I were present. Senior officials attending were Hergen Haye and Simon Virley.

Agendas and minutes, where they are held by my Department, will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department's information assurance procedures have been subject to an independent audit. [299373]

Joan Ruddock: It has not proved possible to reply to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff in his Department have been employed on the management of freedom of information requests submitted to his Department since its inception; and how much was spent on the management of such requests. [299140]

Joan Ruddock: Since its inception in October 2008, the Department has used a shared service with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) (now the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)) to provide a range of information management-related services including the management and support of FOI case management. The total costs for the FOI element of the service only include staff employed for more than 50 per cent. of their time on FOI work and are broken down as follows:

	Staff	*Costs (£)*
2008-09	2.15	108,928

Departmental Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff of his Department have been authorised to work from home in the last 12 months. [297740]

Joan Ruddock: DECC operates a flexible working policy so that all staff are able to work from home for some of the working week if they wish, subject to business need and with the prior approval of their manager. The guidance for staff is available on the HR intranet.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department was in the last 12 months. [299586]

Joan Ruddock: No special advisers are provided with an allocated Government car and driver. As with all civil servants, special advisers may use an official car or taxi in properly defined circumstances.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department in 2008-09. [299286]

Joan Ruddock: It has not proved possible to reply to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Departmental Political Activities

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 278W, on party conferences, how much the *(a)* Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and *(b)* Chair of the Fuel Poverty Advisory Group spent sending representatives to attend each of the party political conferences in 2009; and whether prior permission was sought from the Cabinet Office for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. [298683]

Mr. Kidney: The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) spent approximately £2,000 in total sending representatives to attend the party political conferences in 2009. The NDA considered Cabinet Office guidance on attending party conferences and in line with that guidance sought permission of its sponsoring department, the Department of Energy and Climate Change, before attending the conferences.

The total amount claimed by the Chair of the Fuel Poverty Advisory Group for attending the party conferences was £658.20.

Departmental Postal Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of postal services provided for his Department were provided by *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* other postal service providers (i) between the establishment of his Department's correspondence unit and 30 June 2009 and (ii) after 1 July 2009. [298775]

Joan Ruddock: Since DECC's inception on 3 October 2008, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) manage the Department's estate, including mail services.

For Whitehall Place approximately 75 per cent. of services were provided by Royal Mail and 25 per cent. by UK Mail. This percentage relates to both 3 October to 30 June 2008 and after July 2009. These figures are exclusive of the interdepartmental mail service.

All standard mail for Atholl House is sent via Royal Mail and time critical (courier) items/parcels are sent via Parcelforce. The volumes for Royal Mail are not known. In terms of Parcelforce 144 items were sent from Atholl House between October 2008 and June 2009. 73 have been sent between July and October this year.

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of postal services provided for his Department were provided by *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* other postal service providers (i) between the establishment of his Department's correspondence unit and 30 June 2009 and (ii) after 1 July 2009. [298776]

Joan Ruddock: Since DECC's inception on 3 October 2008, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) manage the Department's estate, including mail services.

For Whitehall Place, approximately 75 per cent. of services were provided by Royal Mail and 25 per cent. by UK Mail. This percentage relates to both 3 October 2008 to 30 June 2008 and after July 2009. These figures are exclusive of the interdepartmental mail service.

All standard mail for Atholl house is sent via Royal Mail and time critical (courier) items/parcels are sent via Parcelforce. The volumes for Royal Mail are not known. In terms of Parcelforce, 144 items were sent from Atholl house between October 2008 and June 2009. 73 have been sent between July and October this year.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with which providers his Department had a contract to provide postal services in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* between 1 January 2009 and 1 July 2009 and *(d)* since 1 July 2009. [299427]

Joan Ruddock: It has not proved possible to reply to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department on procurement under tender because the tender process had been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last 12 months. [299348]

Joan Ruddock: It has not proved possible to reply to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the statistical datasets collected by his Department are published. [299609]

Joan Ruddock: As a matter of course, DECC publishes all of its datasets which meet the definition of 'official statistics' set out in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. The statistics are published in accordance with the requirements set out in the "Code of Practice for Official Statistics" and the "National Statistician's Guidance on the Presentation and Publication of Official Statistics".

Departmental Training

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to raise the level of technical expertise of officials of his Department. [299765]

Joan Ruddock: It has not proved possible to reply to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have travelled by (i) car, (ii) rail and (iii) air on Government business in each year since his Department's creation. [298538]

Joan Ruddock: The information requested could not be provided within the disproportionate cost limit.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on overnight accommodation for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials while overseas since its establishment. [294679]

Joan Ruddock: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Dungeness B Power Stations

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the safety implications of the incident at Dungeness B on 29 June 2009. [297785]

Mr. Kidney: An investigation into the incident by the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE's) Nuclear Directorate is continuing. It is therefore not possible at this stage to evaluate all the implications for nuclear safety to arise from the incident. However, immediate actions for safety in the fuel route have been identified and addressed by British Energy, the operator of the Dungeness B facility. Issues requiring further attention have been identified by the Nuclear Directorate from its investigation so far, and these have been communicated to British Energy. These relate to British Energy's safety management systems. The outcome of Nuclear Directorate's investigation will be published on HSE's website.

Electricity

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of unserved electricity demand in the five years from 2016. [298377]

Mr. Kidney: The most recent estimate was published on 9 November alongside the response to the consultation on a Framework for the Development of Clean Coal. Figure 32 in the technical annex of "Carbon Capture and Storage demonstration: analysis of policies on coal/CCS and financial incentive schemes" shows an average expected energy unserved of 0.3 GWh over the five years. The publication is available on the DECC website.

Electricity Generation

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of electricity generated *(a)* in total and *(b)* from offshore wind farms was lost in transmission to final users in the latest period for which figures are available. [299336]

Joan Ruddock: The latest figures on transmission losses are available in the report published by National Grid in June 2008 "Investigation into transmission losses in the UK electricity transmission system". The report is available from the link

http://www.nationalgrid.com/NR/rdonlyres/
4D65944BDE424FF488DFBC6A81EFA09B/26920/
ElectricityTransmissionLossesReport1.pdf

The proportion of electricity generated lost in transmission is estimated at 2 per cent. of the total energy transferred across the network, the out-turn of transmission losses is estimated at 6.9 TWh for 20082009.

There are no specific figures available for the proportion of the electricity generated from offshore wind farms lost in transmission to final users. Such losses will vary depending on a range of factors such as location and size of wind farms as well as the distance of the wind farm to the onshore grid.

Electricity: Meters

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons conventional electricity meters are still being installed by energy companies. [299055]

Mr. Kidney: Conventional domestic electricity meters are replaced when they reach the end of their approved certification life. The approved certification life of a meter is based on prescribed accuracy standards under the responsibility of the National Measurement Office. Periodically a sample of each meter type will be taken out of service and tested for accuracy. If a meter type remains within a defined accuracy tolerance of +2.5 to -3.5 per cent., the certification life of that meter type may be extended and the relevant meters can remain in service for another defined period of time.

These procedures are in place to ensure consumers are billed accurately for the electricity they use, but also so that accurate meters can remain in service for as long as they are compliant with meter accuracy requirements.

Energy Supply

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the Government's policy is on whether the UK should have a continually increasing supply of oil and gas. [297652]

Mr. Kidney: The central scenario in DECC's recent 'Low Carbon Transition Plan' projects that gas use has already peaked and will now decline. The same scenario for oil projects oil use increasing slightly until 2013 after which it will also decline gradually. There are necessarily significant uncertainties around this scenario and a range of sensitivities could be considered.

Energy: Government Assistance

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assistance with energy costs the Government provides to those diagnosed with cancer. [298885]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* The Government's fuel poverty policies are targeted at vulnerable households in receipt of specific benefits. Cancer patients in receipt of benefits—whether income or pension-related, with children under 16 or on disability living allowance, will qualify for additional heating and energy efficiency help under the Warm Front Scheme. In addition, any household can qualify for subsidised energy saving measures from energy supply companies under the Government's carbon emissions reduction target.

Energy: Prices

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost of social tariffs to *(a)* energy companies and *(b)* consumers currently on standard tariffs. [298060]

Mr. Kidney: Ofgem monitors the energy suppliers' social programmes on behalf of Government. Their latest report, published 18 August 2009, gave details of suppliers spend from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009. This showed that the total spend across all suppliers on social programmes in 2008-09 was £157 million, compared with the £100 million agreed under the voluntary agreement.

Ofgem also report that £130 million of this total spend was attributable to social tariffs and have made an estimate that this represented an average cost of £2.73 per customer account for that year. However, this is an estimate which is based on a customer with average consumption and assumes suppliers apportion these costs equally across all their customers.

A copy of the Ofgem report can be found online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Suppliers/CSR/Documents1/Monitoring_suppliers_social_spend_2008_09_final.pdf

Energy: Taxation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1670, on windfall taxes on energy companies, whether he has obtained the BBC transcript to which reference is made. [298354]

Mr. Kidney: No. The BBC has been unable to provide a transcript answering the description provided by the hon. Member.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme in incentivising a reduction in the carbon emissions of businesses in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the EU and *(c)* other countries. [299830]

Joan Ruddock: We published our review of the 2008 results of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) on 24 September 2009. This shows that like for like emissions in the UK were 4.5 per cent. (1 11MtC0_{2e}) below 2007 levels. Across the EU, emissions were 55MtC0_{2e} below 2007 levels. In addition, companies in the EU ETS used international project credits for compliance, helping fund 82MtC0_{2e} of abatement from other countries. The full results can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/change_energy/tackling_clima/emissions/eu_ets/publications/publications.aspx

The level of climate change ambition in the EU ETS is driven by the emissions cap. Across the EU, the cap in 2008-12 is 6 per cent. below 2005 emission levels. With an EU target for 2020 of a 20 per cent. reduction in emissions on 1990 levels, the EU ETS cap is set at 21 per cent. below 2005 levels by 2020.

Fossil Fuel Levy: Scotland

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has plans for the drawdown and use of the Scottish Fossil Fuel Levy. [299826]

Mr. Kidney: The Department has no plans for the drawdown and use of the Scottish Fossil Fuel Levy.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent assessment is of progress towards meeting the target of ending fuel poverty in England. [294122]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 20 October 2009]:* The Government remain committed to doing all that is reasonably practicable to ensure that households do not live in fuel poverty.

Between 1996 and 2005 the number of fuel poor households in the UK fell from around 6.5 million to around 2.5 million. Rising fuel prices have reversed this trend.

A review of our fuel poverty policies is examining whether existing measures could be made more effective, and whether new policies should be introduced.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in *(a)* Peterborough constituency, *(b)* Cambridgeshire, *(c)* the East of England and *(d)* England are living in fuel poverty. [300118]

Mr. Kidney: The most recently available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2006, and shows that there were around 3,400 fuel poor households in the Peterborough constituency, and around 28,100 fuel poor households in the county of Cambridgeshire.

Latest figures for fuel poverty rates in England and at Government office region level relate to 2007. These show that there were around 253,000 fuel poor households in the East of England, and 2.8 million fuel poor households in England.

Generic Design Assessment

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons his Department has decided not to reimburse the travel expenses of representatives of non-governmental organisations invited to attend the meeting on Updates on the Generic Design Assessment to be held in London on 17 November 2009. [298121]

Mr. Kidney: Ministers and officials regularly engage with a wide range of stakeholders including industry, environmental groups and the unions. Organisations who would expect to have contact with government and engage in consultations as a core part of their remit would normally not expect their expenses to be paid to attend meetings. In this instance we have offered a conference call facility to those who do not wish to travel. The distinction is made when members of the public who would not in their everyday lives expect to come to London to meet the Government are invited to do so, in which case their expenses would be paid.

In this instance we consider the meeting to be a particular circumstance in order to re-convene a specific group of non-governmental organisations, which was established by the regulators to discuss particular matters around the Generic Design Assessment. In these circumstances, we are willing to offer to reimburse reasonable travel expenses for these delegates to attend the meeting in London on 17 November 2009.

Heating

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the accredited achieved efficiencies of heat pumps. [298716]

Joan Ruddock: The Department does not hold information on the accredited efficiencies of heat pumps. However, under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS), product certification of heat pumps includes information on performance. More information on MCS is available at the website:

www.ukmicrogeneration.org

The Energy Saving Trust is currently carrying out heat pump field trails and this should provide further information the efficiencies of heat pumps. This trial is due to report in 2010.

Housing: Construction

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department provides *(a)* grants and *(b)* other financial incentives to encourage (i) the use of environmentally-friendly materials in housebuilding and (ii) the use of energy-conserving domestic appliances. [296803]

Joan Ruddock: The Department is providing £6 million for a Renewable Construction Demonstration Project which aims to increase the use of renewable construction materials in affordable homes. The project is administered by the Government's housing and regeneration body, the Homes and Communities Agency. Funding is available to registered social landlords to help create a series of greener homes using renewable materials such as timber frames, natural insulation and timber windows. Developers are also required to install smart meters to track energy use.

The carbon emissions reduction target (CERT), and similar previous policies, place a carbon saving obligation on energy suppliers to be met through promoting energy efficiency to households. One approach that suppliers follow is to subsidise the cost of the most efficient domestic appliances at retail or through appliance trade-in schemes.

Over the three years, 2005-08, eight million efficient cold and wet appliances were delivered and these were all A-rated or better. In the first year of CERT (2008-09) a further two million appliances were delivered providing lifetime emissions savings of about two million tonnes of CO_2.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* miners and *(b)* miners' widows have received industrial health compensation in each region of the UK in each of the last 20 years. [299717]

Mr. Kidney: The Government assumed responsibility for British Coal's health compensation liabilities in January 1998.

The following tables show the number of claimants who have received damages since 1998 in each region of the UK. The data are broken down into Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Vibration White Finger (VWF), Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) and 'Other' disease types where 'Other' includes all accident claims in addition to miscellaneous diseases.

COPD data as at 31 October 2009

Number

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Midlands	0	5	57	214	704	1,414	3,400	14,608	20,760	7,957	2,677	828
North East	0	226	721	2,529	7,050	14,264	18,112	30,735	18,448	12,519	7,257	2,160
Notts, Derbys and Leics	0	53	173	958	2,349	3,561	3,477	7,456	2,937	1,045	627	284
Other	0	—	1	6	14	36	83	306	892	674	850	1,046
Scotland	0	70	146	718	1,492	2,363	3,084	5,899	5,166	2,557	764	602
South/South East	0	31	64	215	556	1,288	1,576	3,674	2,831	864	708	183
Wales	0	117	252	824	7,110	7,521	5,734	11,030	10,402	8,908	5,735	1,192
Yorkshire	0	133	1,039	3,129	7,731	16,929	18,754	42,560	34,163	23,202	9,965	4,006

VWF data as at 31 October 2009

Number

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Midlands	51	85	84	172	584	879	403	429	235	369	396	24

VWF data as at 31 October 2009

Number

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
North East	188	422	686	1,292	4,973	6,106	4,170	3,971	2,616	4,726	8,818	563
Notts, Derbys and Leics	14	762	399	1,073	1,949	3165	1491	1643	675	2,777	3,225	57
Other	1	—	4	5	25	55	48	32	40	91	216	34
Scotland	307	83	408	611	408	598	628	1,008	1,034	1,419	1,964	131
South/South East	3	14	11	171	563	896	459	433	126	238	393	38
Wales	307	516	433	733	1,683	1,508	2,019	657	942	1,231	2,385	71
Yorkshire	178	672	664	1,500	4,945	7567	4,873	5,541	4,044	5,570	10,251	413

NIHL data as at 31 October 2009

Number

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Midlands	0	24	171	300	259	178	222	292	132	38	20	45
North East	0	32	256	609	445	293	295	459	181	52	24	23
Notts, Derbys and Leics	0	138	1,900	4,473	2,683	1,212	1,223	1,293	637	49	7	17
Other	0	152	568	417	133	62	55	58	26	6	1	—
Scotland	0	13	109	219	250	304	190	395	153	77	19	2
South/South East	0	8	51	110	98	77	59	100	48	11	6	—
Wales	0	19	159	298	284	244	184	340	165	96	43	48
Yorkshire	0	100	866	2,054	1,323	1,051	985	1,107	440	131	48	62

Other data as at 31 October 2009

Number

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Midlands	10	6	1	7	4	7	5	4	11	5	4	4
North East	13	5	2	4	6	6	5	6	16	1	2	4
Notts, Derbys and Leics	15	2	1	—	2	4	2	4	6	4	—	4
Other	31	13	18	12	5	11	3	3	24	—	3	3
Scotland	4	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	7	1	1	4
South/South East	—	1	—	1	2	—	4	—	6	—	1	0
Wales	4	6	2	3	2	2	6	3	8	1	3	1
Yorkshire	13	7	63	36	17	22	9	15	21	9	4	9

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what penalties his Department has imposed on Capita Group plc for its performance in administering the miners' compensation schemes. [299791]

Mr. Kidney: The Department's contract with Capita includes a Service Level Agreement (SLA) linking some payments to the achievement of key performance targets across a range of operational areas. Capita have performed well throughout the life of the contract, but have not always earned 100 per cent. of the available SLA payments.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has levied in fines on Capita Group plc in respect of its performance in administering the miners' compensation schemes. [299792]

Mr. Kidney: None. The Department's contract with Capita includes a service level agreement linking some payments to the achievement of key performance targets across a range of operational areas.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will publish all the correspondence between his Department and Capita Group plc dealing with *(a)* claimants' complaints and *(b)* hon. Members' complaints on the operation of the miners' compensation schemes. [299793]

Mr. Kidney: In considering such requests the Department has to consider our obligations to maintain claimant confidentiality and our responsibility under the Data Protection Act. On that basis I am not able to agree to publish the correspondence referred to. If my right hon. Friend wishes to raise any individual constituency case with me in writing, I am of course, happy to investigate specific concerns.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have had with Capita Group plc to discuss the administration of the miners' compensation schemes since the introduction of these schemes. [299794]

Mr. Kidney: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not met with representatives of Capita plc to discuss the administration of the miners' compensation schemes. However, officials meet with Capita regularly as part of their ongoing contract management responsibilities and to review progress with completion of the coal health compensation schemes and other operational matters.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the efficiency of Capita Group plc in its administration of the two miners' compensation schemes. [299795]

Mr. Kidney: Capita's performance is continually under review by the Department against its contractual obligations which Capita met to date. Capita's performance is also subject to audit focussing on performance against the service level agreement, costs and the implementation and progress of key elements of the claims handling process.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has paid to Capita Group plc for the administration of the two miners' compensation schemes *(a)* in each year in which the schemes operated and *(b)* in each year since the schemes closed. [299796]

Mr. Kidney: Capita took over the administration of the coal health compensation schemes in 2004, when the claim handling operations were sold by AON, who had previously managed the schemes on behalf of the Department.

The chronic obstructive pulmonary disease scheme was closed to new application in March 2004 and vibration white finger scheme closed to application in October 2002 for live claims and January 2003 for deceased claims.

From 1 April 2004 to 31 October 2009, the Department has paid Capita Business Services c.£418 million for the administration of the coal health compensation schemes.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many complaints his Department has received from *(a)* claimants and *(b)* hon. Members on Capita Group plc and its administration of the two miners' compensation schemes. [299797]

Mr. Kidney: The Information requested relating specifically to complaints is not available from the Department's records. In the context of the delivery of the coal health compensation schemes the Department receives correspondence from MPs, claimants and other interested parties relating to a range of operational matters. To date, the majority of that correspondence relates to procedural and entitlement issues.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criteria his Department used when awarding contracts for administering the two miners' compensation schemes to Capital Group plc. [299798]

Mr. Kidney: The Department used the following broad selection criteria when awarding the contract:

Experience of claims handling, particularly on a large scale;

Ability to manage ongoing process in an efficient cost effective manner;

Ability to deploy wider claims handling, technical and management resources;

Experience of scheme closure issue particularly in relation to people, property and IT;

Ability to meet service specification.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 23 June 2009, transferred from his Department on 14 October, ref 292906, PQ 3048 08/09, on carbon emissions and climate change. [299910]

Joan Ruddock: I replied to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on 6 August.

National Nuclear Policy Statement

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criteria will be used to appoint commissioners to the Infrastructure Planning Commission's review of proposals contained in the National Nuclear Policy Statement issued on 9 November 2009. [299621]

Mr. Kidney: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Natural Gas

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the respective roles of the *(a)* Health and Safety Executive, *(b)* Marine and Coastguard Agency and *(c)* Environment Agency in respect of liquefied natural gas terminal operations in the UK. [299963]

Mr. Kidney: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Natural Gas: Risk Assessment

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy [illegible] Climate Change what recent representations he has [illegible] on risk assessments of liquefied natural gas operations. [299962]

Mr. Kidney: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Natural Gas: Shipping

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on the safety of liquefied natural gas shipping in UK waters. [299867]

Mr. Kidney: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Nuclear Power Stations: Security

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criteria were used to determine the appropriate land area to be designated at nominated nuclear sites to provide defence-in-depth in respect of security. [299681]

Mr. Kidney: As set out in the Government Response to Consultation on the SSA Criteria and Process, as part of the Strategic Siting Assessment the Government considered whether it was reasonable to conclude that there was enough land within the boundary nominated to safely and securely operate at least one new nuclear power station.

Operators are required to adopt the concept of "defence-in-depth" in protecting nuclear power stations. Defence-in-depth is defined by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as "a concept used to design security systems that require an adversary to overcome or circumvent multiple obstacles, either similar or diverse, in order to achieve his objective". This requires the nominators to make adequate land available to install multiple barriers, with sufficient spacing between them, in order to provide the delay that allows an effective response by the security force.

The relevant SSA criterion which considered the practicality of providing for adequate defence-in-depth for a new nuclear station, was criterion D9, which examined the size of site for operations. In providing advice on this criterion, the Office for Civil Nuclear Security confirmed that a rectangular area of adequate width (giving an enclosed area of approximately 30 hectares) would be required to provide the effective defence in depth necessary for the reactor building, spent fuel and intermediate level waste stores.

For each nominated site, OCNS's advice involved consideration of both the size and the shape of the nominated area, given that shape is particularly relevant in considering whether there is sufficient room for these defence in depth measures at any nuclear site.

The results of the assessment are available at

http://www.energynpsconsultation.decc.gov.uk

Nuclear Power Stations: Sellafield

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether land north of Sellafield earmarked for a nuclear power station has been sold by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. [299764]

Mr. Kidney: A consortium of GDF SUEZ SA, Iberdrola SA and Scottish and Southern Energy plc has secured an option to purchase land to the north of the existing Sellafield facility for the development of a new nuclear power station. Following the sale run by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), the consortium set out plans to build up to 3.6 gigawatts of new nuclear capacity in the UK, with work beginning in 2015. The site, purchased for £70 million, follows previous sales of NDA land at Wylfa, Oldbury and Bradwell. Any new nuclear power station development will be subject to the regulatory and other consenting processes.

Palm Oil

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department was represented at the most recent Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil meeting; and if he will make a statement. [298531]

Joan Ruddock: The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil annual meeting (2 to 4 November) was attended by a Government official from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office posted to the South East Asia region. FCO officials work closely with counterparts in the UK to represent wider Government interests and to keep policy makers informed of relevant developments abroad.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he last discussed the use of sustainable palm oil with *(a)* Ministerial colleagues, *(b)* representatives of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, *(c)* representatives of the palm oil industry, *(d)* representatives of environmental non governmental organisations and *(e)* officials of other Government departments; and if he will make a statement. [298532]

Joan Ruddock: This month I held discussions with UK-based businesses who are members of the RSPO and with international NGOs on forestry and palm oil. From 14 to 19 November I will be visiting Indonesia during which I am scheduled to meet palm oil producers, environmental NGOs, civil society groups and ministers and officials from the Indonesian Government. Engagement with these groups and other governments will continue as the UK Government work to support sustainable production and consumption of palm oil.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent assessment is of the effect on climate change and carbon emissions of the palm oil industry; what his Department's policy is on the use of sustainable palm oil; what representations he expects to make on the contribution of the palm oil industry to the level of carbon emissions and climate change at the forthcoming Copenhagen climate change conference; and if he will make a statement. [298534]

Joan Ruddock: There is an increasing body of research on the life cycle greenhouse gas emissions of palm oil production and consumption. Emissions can be produced at the production stage, transport, processing and end use. The largest direct climate change impact occurs when areas of peat-land forest are converted to plantations. A recent study estimated that one ha of peat swamp forest drained and converted to oil palm plantation may emit to the atmosphere up to 3,300 tonnes of CO^2 over its expected 30-year lifespan. Oil palm plantations on mineral soils which do not entail deforestation can remove carbon from the atmosphere.

Our policy is to advance the sustainable production and consumption of palm oil, domestically and internationally. This includes through development of standards and engagement with businesses, NGOs, the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil and other governments. Specifically in Copenhagen we seek an agreement which includes ambitious targets to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, encourages sustainable management of forests, contains strong safeguards on the conversion of natural forests and to protect biodiversity and ensures free consultation with indigenous peoples and local communities.

Renewable Energy

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the contribution of the Minister of State of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 988, what proportion of the 40 per cent. of electricity which is expected to come from renewables by 2020 will be provided by each form of generating technology. [297877]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 5 November 2009]:* The Low Carbon Transition plan states that by 2020 around 40 per cent. electricity will come from low carbon sources: renewables, nuclear and clean coal.

The Renewable Energy Strategy, published in July 2009 at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/res/res.aspx

presents an illustrative mix of technologies to meet the UK's share of the EU renewable energy target (Chart 2). This lead scenario suggests that around 30 per cent. electricity will come from renewable sources by 2020, 12 per cent. heat and 10 per cent. transport. This analysis is based on research by independent consultants Redpoint/Trilemma (2009), Nera (2009), and internal work by the Department of Transport.

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons his Department has reduced the rate of return achievable through feed-in tariffs for photovoltaic power generation; and if he will make a statement. [298114]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 10 November 2009]:* The tariffs outlined in the Consultation on Renewable Electricity Financial Incentives 2009 have yet to be finalised as we are currently analysing the responses we received. The tariffs were proposed to provide a rate of return of approximately 5-8 per cent. for a well sited installation.

As stated in the consultation document our reasoning behind the rates of return reflects the risks associated with deploying the different technologies and the likely effect those risks would have on investors' willingness to invest. For technologies that may involve complex design and approvals, then the return on investment may have to be higher than where these issues are reduced, for example with solar PV.

For some technologies, e.g. PV and wind, actual rates of return will be dependent on local conditions. Rates of return for all technologies will also depend on installed costs.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to publish his proposals to encourage the installation of renewable heat technologies in respect of *(a)* domestic and *(b)* commercial properties. [299178]

Joan Ruddock: We are hoping to publish our proposals for a Renewable Heat Incentive, which will encourage the uptake of renewable heat through a financial support mechanism, shortly.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change in which geographical areas the community energy savings programme is to operate; what the allocation and timescale of funding to each area is; what recent assessment he has made of progress in the implementation of the programme; and if he will make a statement. [299175]

Joan Ruddock: The Community Energy Savings Programme aims to provide around £350 million of energy efficiency measures to the most vulnerable homes. Projects can take place in areas falling in the lowest income decile of the Income Domain of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation in England, and the lowest 15 per cent. of Income in Scotland and Wales. My Department has published a list of all the eligible areas (of which there are around 4,500) which is available on the DECC website.

There is no allocation of funding to each area, but we expect around 100 projects around GB to help approximately 90,000 of the most vulnerable households. We are also about to tender a project to undertake a detailed evaluation of the programme as a whole, and are pleased by the recent announcement by British Gas who have agreed in principle to work with 10 local authorities across the country: Glasgow, Dundee, Swansea, Preston, Knowsley, Birmingham, Walsall, Blacon in Cheshire, Southwark and Haringey.

Renewable Energy: Developing Countries

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much the Government have spent on the transfer of technology to harness renewable energy in developing countries in the latest year for which figures are available; and how much it plans to spend in the next 12 months. [297917]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 5 November 2009]:* The UK funds the promotion of renewable energy in developing countries through multilateral funds and international organisations. It is not possible to quantify how much the UK has spent on the transfer of technology to harness renewable energy in developing countries distinct from other clean technologies. It is currently difficult to quantify expenditure in technology as the primary purpose as the objectives of these funds and organisations include other issues, such as adaptation to climate change or capacity building, and we need to avoid double counting. However, with increased international climate finance in the future, it will become important to develop a system which can track this level of detail.

Multilateral funds supported by the UK include the Clean Technology Fund (within the Climate Investment Funds), to which the UK is contributing £385 million in this CSR and the Global Environment Facility, to which we are providing £140 million over four years. They cover a range of technologies and activities, including renewables. The UK has also committed to funding the Scaling-up Renewable Energy Program, which is also part of the Climate Investment Funds, which will focus solely on renewable energy programmes in a small number of low income countries once it reaches its target capitalisation of $250 million.

The UK directly supports a number of organisations operating in developing countries, including the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), to which the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) contributes £2.5 million per annum, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), to which DECC has contributed £1 million in 2009-10 (the first year of IRENA's existence), and plans to contribute £2.2 million in 2010-11 and GVEP International (an international non-profit organisation seeking to reduce poverty through accelerated access to modern energy services), to which the Department for International Development (DFID) is providing £4 million over four years, running to 2011.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with his counterparts in *(a)* Bangladesh, *(b)* Ethiopia, *(c)* India, *(d)* Kenya and *(e)* Nepal on technology transfer to enable those countries to harness renewable energy and combat climate change. [297910]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 5 November 2009]*: It has not proved possible to reply to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Warm Front Scheme

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of those eligible to receive Warm Front grants his Department estimates will receive such grants in 2009. [297971]

Mr. Kidney: The number of people eligible for assistance under Warm Front at any given time cannot be accurately estimated. This is a result of the direct link between qualification and the constant flux in the number of households receiving the relevant passport benefits for the scheme.

All households that apply to Warm Front and are confirmed as eligible then go on to receive grant-funded assistance from the Scheme. The level of assistance a qualifying household receives will vary according to the specific energy efficiency needs of the household.

In 2008-09 the scheme assisted 233,594 households.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the evidential basis is for the estimates made of average carbon dioxide emissions reductions under the Warm Front scheme; whether arrangements are made for the external audit of such estimates; and what the *(a)* estimated and *(b)* actual reductions were in each of the last five years. [298008]

Mr. Kidney: The carbon reductions reported for the Warm Front Scheme are based on figures calculated by an external energy analysis company, the Energy Audit Company. The calculations are based on property data collected and supplied by eaga plc, the Scheme Manager, which are processed through specialist National Home Energy Rating (NHER) software issued by National Energy Services.

There is no charge for this work to DECC.

The process does not yield actual reductions for each individual property or projected estimates. The calculated figures for the last five years are as follows.

Average reduction	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
CO_2 emissions, tonnes/year	1.453	1.331	1.203	1.298	1.233

The figures given for 2006-07 and 2008-09 differ to those previously quoted in the Warm Front Annual report for these years. This is the result of an error in calculation in these reports, which are in the process of being amended.

Wind Power

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding Ofgem has provided to connect each offshore windfarm to the mainland; and what estimate he has made of the gigawatts each windfarm will transmit. [296778]

Mr. Kidney: Ofgem is currently running the first transitional round of competitive tenders to grant offshore transmission owner (OFTO) licences for the grid connections from offshore wind projects that qualified. The new OFTOs will reimburse the developers for their efficiently incurred connection costs determined by Ofgem. For the first round of tenders, this is estimated to be around £1.1 billion. In return developers will pay OFTOs an annual transmission charge for 20 years to use the connections. The OFTOs will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the connections for that period.

The British Wind Energy Association provides information on the actual or anticipated output of offshore wind farms. This information is available at:

http://www.bwea.com/ukwed/offshore.asp

Wind Power: Lincolnshire

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he has given to the recent consent for the construction of an onshore wind farm in Lincolnshire; what his most recent estimate is of *(a)* the cost of the project, *(b)* the number of watts it will generate and *(c)* the approximate number of domestic properties which will be supported by its power generation. [296779]

Mr. Kidney: I understand this question relates to an offshore wind farm—"Lincs"—which was consented on 21 October 2008 following a public consultation exercise and the thorough consideration of a consent application that included an environmental impact assessment. The project, to be sited five miles off the Lincolnshire coast, will generate 250 MW of electricity, enough, according to the developer, Centrica, to supply around 200,000 properties. Centrica has indicated that the project will require an investment of £725 million.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many first-class flights were taken by each Minister in the Government Equalities Office in 2008-09; and what the *(a)* origin, *(b)* destination and *(c)* cost was of each such flight. [illegible]

Michael Jabez Foster: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Hotels

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office spent on hotel bills in 2008-09. [illegible]

Michael Jabez Foster: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office spent on hire vehicles in each of the last five financial years. [illegible]

Michael Jabez Foster: Since the Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007, the following amounts have been spent of vehicle hire.

Financial year	*Expenditure (£)*
2007-08	n/a
2008-09	33
2009-10	3,700

Departmental Postal Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality with which providers the Government Equalities Office held contracts to provide postal services *(a)* in 2007, *(b)* in 2008, *(c)* between 1 January and 1 July 2009 and *(d)* after 1 July 2009. [illegible]

Michael Jabez Foster: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Discrimination: Older Workers

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on prevention of discrimination against persons aged over 60 years who apply for paid employment. [illegible]

Michael Jabez Foster: Government Equalities Office Ministers work closely with their counterparts on issues affecting older people. We fully support the work being undertaken by DWP under the Government's 'Building a society for all ages' strategy, which tackles many issues affecting older people in the UK.

GEO Ministers also work closely with Ministers at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, which leads on legislation on age discrimination in the workplace.

Equal Opportunities

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality, with reference to page 38 of the Government Equalities Office's Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2008-09, HC 874, what the other evidence is which contradicts the findings of the Citizenship Survey that there are no significant gaps between groups in perceptions of unfair treatment. [298481]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government made a commitment in PSA15 to narrow the gap between advantaged and disadvantaged groups—for example, between men and women, and between non-disabled people and disabled people—in relation to perceptions of fair treatment, and to measure performance through responses to new questions in the Citizenship Survey.

However, when GEO analysed data responses to the new questions, there was little evidence of significant gaps in perceptions of fair treatment between groups. The gaps that do exist are all small, usually between 1 and 2 percentage points. While we should not discount these findings, they do conflict with other evidence on the issue:

The 2008 Citizenship Survey found that 34 per cent. of black and minority ethnic people believed that one or more from a range of listed public services would treat them worse than people of other races.

A May 2009 Department of Health report ("Report on self reported experience of patients from black and minority ethnic groups") found that BME groups are less likely to report a positive experience of healthcare.

Organisations representing older people consistently present anecdotal evidence that this group are significantly disadvantaged in relation to treatment by public services (for example in the 2007 Help The Aged report, "The Challenge of Dignity in Care: Upholding the rights of the individual").

GEO will be reporting on progress for each of the PSA15 indicators in our Autumn Performance Report 2009.

Females

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality with reference to the "Women in Power: Milestones" document of the Government Equalities Office, for what reason the UK's first woman Prime Minister is not mentioned by name in the document; and if she will make it her policy to revise the document to include her name. [298480]

Michael Jabez Foster: The omission of Baroness Thatcher's name on the milestone fact sheet was not intentional. This was an oversight. When it was brought to our attention it was corrected. This particular fact sheet was produced for a specific purpose—to coincide with the 80th and 90th anniversaries of the 'democratic' franchise of 1918[1] and the Equal Franchise Act of 1928[2].

It is not a comprehensive list but provides a snapshot of some key advances made by women in political and public life over the years. We will be publishing a revised women's milestones fact sheet shortly.

[1] The Democratic Franchise of 1918 gave the right to vote only to women over the age of 30.

[2] The Equal Franchise Act of 1928 granted women the right to vote on the same terms as men.

Homosexuality: Human Rights

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent steps the Government Equalities Office has taken in respect of the human rights of gay and lesbian people. [299958]

Maria Eagle: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Immigrants: Housing

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will place in the Library a copy of the interim report on Social Housing Allocation and Immigrant Communities commissioned by the Equality and Human Rights Commission from the Institute for Public Policy Research. [288260]

Michael Jabez Foster: I have placed a copy of the report on Social Housing Allocation and Immigrant Communities in the House of Commons Library. The report is already published on the Equality and Human Rights Commission's website.

Political Parties: Equal Opportunities

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of the extent of gender discrimination in registered political parties represented in Parliament. [294955]

Michael Jabez Foster: None.

However, the Speaker's Conference is looking at gender discrimination as part of its remit to investigate, and make recommendations to address, the lack of women, disabled people and ethnic minorities in the House of Commons.

The findings are expected to be published at the end of the year.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Billing

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what percentage of invoices from suppliers her Office paid within 10 days of receipt in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2009. [299555]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Olympic Games 2012: Voluntary Organisations

Clive Efford: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps she is taking to ensure that third sector community organisations play a part in planning for the legacy from the London 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [299817]

Tessa Jowell: The Government are committed to ensuring a lasting legacy from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Government Olympic Executive has worked with Volunteering England and YouthNet to convene an advisory group to ensure that Third Sector organisations are fully involved in legacy planning.

In addition, the Office of the Third Sector has provided £1.6 million to YouthNet and Volunteering England in order to strengthen existing third sector infrastructure in advance of the Games.

Clive Efford: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what funding her Office has allocated to third sector community organisations to enable them to bid for the plans for the legacy from the London 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [299818]

Tessa Jowell: The Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office is funding two programmes that will support third sector involvement in the Olympic legacy. The first is a £1.6 million programme, managed by third sector organisations Youthnet and Volunteering England. It will enable 1,500 organisations to promote 100,000 more volunteering opportunities inspired by the London 2012 Games through the National Volunteering Database and help 100,000 people to register for these.

The second programme will be delivered through the youth volunteering charity 'V'. In early 2010; 'V' will announce further details of a £5 million national programme to boost youth volunteering leading up to the 2012 Games. 'V' has been consulting with young people and a range of other stakeholders, including the voluntary sector, 2012 delivery bodies and Government Departments to inform this programme.

Clive Efford: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what funding her Office has allocated to third sector organisations to develop their sporting facilities as part of the plans for the legacy from the London 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [299819]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

SCOTLAND

Advertising: Scotland

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department *(a)* spent on advertising in 2008-09 and *(b)* has so spent in 2009-10 on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [299649]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office incurred no expenditure on advertising in 2008-09 and to date has incurred no costs in 2009-10.

Christmas

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in the last 12 months. [299263]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office spent £456 on Christmas cards, but no expenditure was incurred from official funds on internal Christmas parties or decorations in the last 12 months.

All expenditure was incurred in accordance with the principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2009. [299554]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office paid 98.7 per cent. of invoices for suppliers within 10 days of receipt in September 2009 and 100 per cent. of invoices in October 2009.

Departmental Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the *(a)* energy rating and *(b)* energy band of each building occupied by his Department and its agencies was in each year for which figures are available. [299696]

Ann McKechin: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department was in the last 12 months. [299601]

Ann McKechin: No special advisers are provided with an allocated Government car and driver.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department in 2008-09. [299279]

Ann McKechin: The total amount of reimbursable expenses claimed by press officers in the Scotland Office in 2008-09 was £633.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what proportion of the statistical datasets collected by his Department are published. [299637]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office holds one dataset only—the Scottish Parliament sub-constituency results data from the 2007 elections—which has been published on the Scotland Office website.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Christmas

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency have spent on Christmas (i) cards, (ii) parties and (iii) decorations in the last 12 months. [299273]

Mr. Simon: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department and its agency in 2008-09. [299287]

Mr. Simon: The amount of reimbursable expenses claimed in 2008-09 by press officers in the Department was £33,894.29.

The amount of reimbursable expenses claimed in 2008-09 by press officers in the Department's agency, The Royal Parks, was £267.07.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of the statistical datasets collected by his Department are published. [299671]

Mr. Simon: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Extra-curricular Activities: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many young people in *(a)* primary education and *(b)* secondary education have participated in extra-curricular musical activity in the Milton Keynes area in each of the last five years. [298124]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: I have been asked to reply.

Music is a national curriculum subject and all children from 5 to 14-years old should therefore participate in music activity at school. However, the Government do not collect information either from schools or from local authorities about numbers children and young people participating in extra-curricular musical activity.

Internet

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will commission a market study of the entertainment industry's use of internet sharing technology. [299534]

Mr. Simon: The Government are not aware of widespread use of peer-to-peer technology by the creative (entertainment) industries, and have no plans to conduct a market study.

Museums and Galleries: Visits

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many free visits were made to art galleries and museums funded from the public purse in each region of England in each of the last five years. [300072]

Margaret Hodge: The following table shows the number of visits to free DCMS sponsored museums and galleries in England:

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
London	27,508,000	25,807,462	30,536,425	30,832,671	30,769,560
North West	2,969,618	2,993,576	3,055,629	4,073,001	4,052,761
South East	188,080	192,562	195,590	210,097	183,396
Yorkshire	1,646,206	1,666,372	1,803,550	1,829,587	1,726,354
North East	1,673,907	1,568,901	1,496,132	1,502,057	1,516,092
Total	34,300,372	32,286,400	37,214,290	38,903,092	38,162,130

The free museums included in each region are as follows:

London: British Museum, Geffrye Museum, Horniman Museum, Imperial War Museum, National Gallery, National Maritime Museum, National Portrait Gallery, Natural History Museum, Science Museum, Sir John Soane's Museum, Tate Modern, Tate Britain, Victoria and Albert Museum and the Wallace Collection.

North West: Imperial War Museum North, Museum of Science and Industry Manchester, National Museums Liverpool, Locomotion at Shildon and Tate Liverpool.

South East: Natural History Museum at Tring, Royal Armouries (Fort Nelson).

Yorkshire: National Coalmining Museum, National Media Museum, National Railway Museum, Royal Armouries (Leeds).

North East: Tyne and Wear Museums.

Similar data on the number of visits to all art galleries and museums funded by the public purse could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

National Lottery Funding: Sports Council

Mr. Gregson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* National Lottery funding and *(b)* Sports Council funding has been allocated to (i) rugby union, (ii) cricket and (iii) football in each of the last five years. [299780]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Playing Fields: Schools

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to restrict the sale of school playing fields by local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [299981]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Public Libraries: Internet

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many public libraries providing internet access to the public there were in each region of England in each of the last 10 years. [illegible]

Margaret Hodge: Information on the number of libraries open for more than 10 hours a week and providing internet access to the public is available for the last 10 years in the annual public library statistics published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). That information is available at a regional level from 2001-02, and from 2006-07 is provided as a percentage of libraries with access. Copies of CIPFA reports are held in the House Libraries.

Sports

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to take steps to prevent *(a)* playing fields, *(b)* other sports facilities and *(c)* libraries being disposed of in the Government's proposed sale of public assets. [299931]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Sports: Finance

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department has allocated to third sector organisations to develop their facilities as sports hubs within their local communities; and if he will make a statement. [299811]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Television: Licensing

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many residential properties in Bassetlaw had no television licence at the latest date for which information is available. [299363]

Mr. Simon: The administration and enforcement of the television licensing system are the responsibility of the BBC, which operates independently of Government. The day-to-day administration and enforcement of licence fees are undertaken by TV Licensing, which act as agents for the Corporation. Accordingly, my Department does not hold this information centrally.

I have asked the Head of Revenue Management at the BBC to write to the hon. Member and will place copies of the reply in the Libraries of both Houses.

UK Film Council

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Film Council in promoting the British film industry. [illegible]

Mr. Simon: The UK Film Council consistently demonstrates its success in promoting the British film industry. Through production funding it helps support new filmmakers and new British films. Its exhibition funding ensures a wider choice of films to audiences throughout the UK. The UK Film Council also invests in training, promoting Britain as an international filmmaking location and in raising the profile of British films abroad. They have also demonstrated great success in securing inward investment to the UK with spend value at £436 million for the first half of 2009.

Examples of films recently supported by the Film Council include In The Loop, Jane Campion's Bright Star and Dorian Gray. Also, following the phenomenal success of Slumdog Millionaire the UK Film Council Export Development Unit will bring the best of recent British independent film to cinemas across southern India next year (26 February to 11 March 2010).

WALES

Departmental Advertising

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on advertising in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [299844]

Mr. Hain: During 2007-08 and 2008-09 my Department did not incur any spend on advertising.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department in 2008-09. [299341]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office is based over two sites in London and Cardiff. A limited number of staff are required to work in both London and Cardiff and some staff are on detached duty from the Welsh Assembly Government whereby their accommodation expenses while staying in London are reimbursed in addition to the travel expenses incurred while on official business.

In 2008-09 press officers in my Department claimed £38,827 in such reimbursable expenses.

Devolution

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether there are any proposals under consideration by his Department for the transfer of powers to the National Assembly for Wales which do not involve *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation. [299854]

Mr. Hain: No.

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent assessment he has made of the processes for the transfer of powers to the National Assembly for Wales via *(a)* the Government of Wales Act 2006, *(b)* legislative competence orders and *(c)* secondary legislation; and what powers have been transferred by each such means since 2006. [299864]

Mr. Hain: The devolution settlement put in place by the Government of Wales Act 2006 is working well. I ensure that the processes for transferring powers to the National Assembly for Wales are subject to continuous review and improvement.

Under the settlement, powers are transferred to the National Assembly via framework powers in Acts of Parliament and through Orders in Council (Legislative Competence Orders). Powers have been transferred in a total of 45 different areas to date, in seven Acts of Parliament and four Legislative Competence Orders. These are set out in the following list.

Powers transferred to the National Assembly for Wales

Framework Powers

Government of Wales Act 2006: Matters 13.1-13.6

NHS Redress Act 2006: Matter 9.1

Education and Inspections Act 2006: Matters 5.1-5.10

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007: Matters 12.1-12.5

Further Education and Training Act 2007: Matters 5.11-5.16

Planning Act 2008: Matters 18.1-18.3

Local Transport Act 2008: Matters 10.1

Legislative Competence Orders

Additional Learning Needs: Matter 5.17

Vulnerable Children: Matters 5.18; 15.2-15.8; and 16.1

Domiciliary Care: Matter 15.1

Red Meat Industry: Matter 1.1.

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proposals before Parliament involving *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation contain framework powers for Wales; and if he will make a statement. [299865]

Mr. Hain: Powers are transferred to the National Assembly for Wales via framework powers in UK Acts of Parliament and through Orders in Council (Legislative Competence Orders).

Three Bills currently before Parliament include framework powers—the Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill, the Marine and Coastal Access Bill and the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill.

One draft Legislative Competence Order (LCO), on the Welsh Language, is currently before Parliament for approval. Four proposed LCOs are currently subject to pre-legislative scrutiny in Parliament. These cover domestic fire sprinklers, culture, local government and school governance. A further two proposed LCOs, on the environment and mental health, have recently completed pre-legislative scrutiny.

Devolution: Publications

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the most recent published and electronic information which lists those powers which have been transferred to the National Assembly for Wales. [299856]

Mr. Hain: Schedule 5 to the Government of Wales Act 2006 lists those powers which have been transferred to the National Assembly for Wales. The latest version of schedule 5 is set out on the National Assembly for Wales's website at:

http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-legislation/bus-legislation-guidance/bus-legislation-guidance-documents/legislation_fields/schedule-5.htm

This page can also be accessed via the Wales Office website.

I have placed a copy of the current schedule 5 in the Library.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the political objectives are of the Government's military strategy in Afghanistan; and on what evidential basis the Government evaluate the effectiveness of that strategy in achieving those objectives. [297576]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The document "UK policy in Afghanistan and Pakistan: the way forward" published by the Prime Minister in April sets out HM Government's political objectives in Afghanistan. It can be found at the following link:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/204173/afghanistan_pakistan.pdf

As the Prime Minister said in his recent speech, our progress is not measured in enemies killed, or battles won—it must be measured in the progress made each season in improving the quality of life of Afghan citizens, the quality of governance, and the capability of the Afghans to protect themselves—as we slowly but surely make it more and more difficult for the Taliban and al-Qaeda to rebuild their base in Afghanistan and the wider region.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average tour interval for each unit deployed in Afghanistan has been in the last 12 months. [300086]

Bill Rammell: The following table shows the operational tour details for each unit deployed to Afghanistan in the last 12 months, as 11 November 2009, and the date of their previous deployment to illustrate their tour intervals.

Infantry

	Latest information			*Previous information*		
Unit deployed	*End date*	*Last operational deployment (as a unit)*	*Start date*	*Previous operational deployment (as a unit)*	*End date*	*Last unit tour interval (months)*
1(st) Battalion Grenadier Guards	—	Afghanistan	October 2009	Afghanistan	October 2007	24
1(st) Battalion Coldstream Guards	—	Afghanistan	October 2009	Afghanistan	March 2007	30
1(st) Battalion Welsh Guards	October 2009	Afghanistan	April 2009	Balkans	April 2007	24
3(rd) Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	October 2009	Afghanistan	April 2009	Iraq	January 2005	51
2(nd) Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	October 2009	Afghanistan	April 2009	Northern Ireland	November 2003	64
3(rd) Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment[1]	—	Afghanistan	October 2009	Iraq	May 2005	52
1(st) Battalion The Royal Welsh	—	Afghanistan	October 2009	Cyprus	April 2008	18
2(nd) Battalion The Royal Welsh[2]	—	Afghanistan	October 2009	Iraq	November 2007	23
2(nd) Battalion The Mercian Regiment	October 2009	Afghanistan	April 2009	Afghanistan	November 2007	17
1(st) Battalion The Rifles[3]	March 2009	Afghanistan	October 2008	Iraq	November 2006	23
2(nd) Battalion The Rifles	October 2009	Afghanistan	April 2009	Iraq	May 2007	23
3rd) Battalion The Rifles	—	Afghanistan	October 2009	Iraq	February 2007	31
4(th) Battalion The Rifles	October 2009	Afghanistan	April 2009	Iraq	November 2007	17
2(nd) Battalion The Royal Gurkha Regiment	April 2009	Afghanistan	October 2008	Afghanistan	October 2003	36

[1] 3 Yorks have elements of the Battalion deploying on HERRICK 10 and HERRICK 11.

[2] Royal Welsh have elements of the Battalion deployed on HERRICK 10 and HERRICK 11 and are due to deploy a further element on HERRICK 13.

[3] 1 RGBW and 1 DDLI amalgamated in March 2007 to form 1 RIFLES. 1 RIFLES has deployed for the first time as a formed unit in October 2008 on Herrick 9.

Royal Armoured Corps

Unit deployed	*End date*	*Last operational deployment (as a unit)*	*Start date*	*Previous operational deployment (as a unit)*	*End date*	*Last unit tour interval (months)*
HCR	April 2008	Afghanistan	October 2007	Iraq	October 2004	36
QDG	April 2009	Afghanistan	October 2008	Iraq	November 2006	23

Royal Armoured Corps

Unit deployed	*End date*	*Last operational deployment (as a unit)*	*Start date*	*Previous operational deployment (as a unit)*	*End date*	*Last unit tour interval (months)*
LD	October 2009	Afghanistan	April 2009	Afghanistan	October 2007	18
2 RTR	October 2009	Afghanistan	April 2009	Iraq	August 2003	67

Royal Artillery (b)

	End date	*Last operational deployment (as a unit)*	*Start date*	*Previous operational deployment (as a unit)*	*End date*	*Last unit tour interval (months)*
1 RHA	—	Afghanistan	October 2009	Iraq	December 2007	21
7 PARA RHA	October 2008	Afghanistan	April 2008	Afghanistan	October 2006	18
29 Cdo Regt RA	April 2009	Afghanistan	October 2008	Afghanistan	April 2007	18
40 Regt RA	October 2009	Afghanistan	April 2009	Iraq	May 2007	23

'Unit' is defined as any regiment deploying with a regimental headquarters and more than two sub units and 'deployment' as any unit deploying for four months or more.

The Army's Harmony Guidelines recommend that Army units achieve 24 months between each six-month operational tour. While there are necessary exceptions for certain trades and units, the situation continues to improve and we are generally succeeding in this aim.

Afghanistan: Police

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria his Department has used to assess potential recruits to the Afghan police force. [299831]

Bill Rammell: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Air Force: Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many RAF aircraft of each type are *(a)* in service, *(b)* in the forward fleet and *(c)* fit for purpose. [297889]

Bill Rammell: I will write to the hon. Gentleman with the information requested shortly.

Air Force: Finance

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what amount of in-year savings he expects the Royal Air Force to achieve in 2009-10; and in which principal areas. [299118]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Air Command Top Level Budget has implemented savings worth some £14 million to contain in-year expenditure within its budgetary allocation for 2009-10. Savings have been made in the marketing and service personnel areas, and by adjusting activity levels, including exercises. Other measures affecting the RAF have been taken in defence equipment and support, where expenditure of some £30 million has, in the main, been deferred into next year. Further savings measures may yet need to be taken. None of the measures will affect support to operations in Afghanistan.

Armed Forces: Cadets

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding is required for cadet instructors to resume training. [300061]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what remuneration cadet instructors will receive in 2009-10; and from what budget such remuneration will be drawn. [300068]

Bill Rammell: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Armed Forces: Coroners

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on which occasions his Department was legally represented at inquest proceedings in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008; and what the cost to his Department was on each occasion. [294993]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested for 2008 is provided in the following table:

	Name	*Date inquest concerned*	*Cost (£)*
1.	Ranger S Shillidy	22 January 2008	23,530.35
2.	Lance Corporal PB Muirhead Ranger A Draiva	23 January 2008	3671.80
3.	Private AB Cutts[1]	23 January 2008	539.81
4.	Mr. Bradley Mr. Green Mr. Evans Mr. Moss Mr. Buckley	28 January 2008	14,077.48
5.	Sergeant JS Hollingsworth	1 October 2008	12,198.91
6.	Captain J Philippson	13 February 2008	3911.41
7.	Lieutenant E Douglas	25 February 2008	59,479.57

—	*Name*	*Date inquest convened*	*Cost (£)*
8.	Captain D Patton Sergeant P Bartlett	27 February 2008	7,447.23
9.	Lance Corporal M Jones RM	18 March 2008	7,794.11
10.	Marine TG Curry	27 March 2008	3,655.21
11.	Gunner SR Wright Gunner S Vanua	18 April 2008	5,477.51
12.	Ellen Paddock	22 April 2008	23,934.04
13.	Marine RJ Watson	2 May 2008	3,096.78
14.	Nimrod Flight Lieutenant S Johnson Flight Lieutenant L Mitchelmore Flight Lieutenant GR Nicholas Flight Lieutenant J Squires Flight Lieutenant S Swarbrick Flight Sergeant GW Andrews Flight Sergeant S Beattie Flight Sergeant GM Bell Flight Sergeant A Davies Sergeant BJ Knight Sergeant JJ Langton Sergeant GP Quilliam Corporal OS Dicketts Marine JD Windall	6 May 2008	102,336.84
15.	Lieutenant R Palmer	6 May 2008	8,463.37
16.	Corporal DW Bonner	2 June 2008	2,118.71
17.	Private T Rawson	2 June 2008	808.17
18.	Marine G Wright	27 June 2008	3,748.51
19.	Lance Bombardier R Clark Lance Bombardier L McLaughlin	18 July 2008	2,312.66
20.	Lance Corporal D McGregor	12 August 2008	33,081.68
21.	Captain J McDermid	12 September 2008	5,215.68
22.	Lance Corporal B Young	4 September 2008	15,173.98
23.	Mr J Garnons-Williams	22 September 2008	24,590.68
24.	Lance Bombardier JE Dwyer	26 September 2008	3690.52
25.	Hercules Squadron Leader P Marshall Flight Lieutenant DK Stead Flight Lieutenant A Smith Flight Lieutenant P Pardoel Master Engineer G Nicholson Chief Technician R Brown Flight Sergeant M Gibson Sergeant R O'Connor Corporal D Williams Lance Corporal S Jones	30 September 2008	236,140.34
26.	Corporal M Wright	6 October 2008	74,002.81
27.	Private D Jackson	9 October 2008	708.77
28.	Sergeant M A Stansfield	3 November 2008	6,392.22
29.	Private A J Borketas	17 November 2008	31,841.25
30.	Private K Thompson	26 November 2008	8574.90
31.	Colour Sergeant M Powell Sergeant M McLaren	2 December 2008	44,307.26
32.	Lance Corporal M Ford	4 December 2008	20,477.27
	Total		792,799.83

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[1] Inquest halted by coroner in September 2007 when further evidence of incident emerged from witness: reconvened on 25 January 2008.

The cases in the table are those where the inquest completed in 2008, although the expenditure may have been spread over a number of years. The figure represents all costs associated with the inquest, including disbursements and VAT.

I provided the information sought for 2006 and 2007 in a written answer on 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 2002W. Regrettably, in constructing this answer it has come to light that the information provided previously was inaccurate. I will write with the correct information once it is available.

Armed Forces: Equipment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the unit cost is of each *(a)* armoured vehicle type, *(b)* aircraft type and *(c)* helicopter type in the armed forces. [297928]

Mr. Quentin Davies: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 234W, on "armed forces: housing", what cost was incurred in each region. [299755]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following tables list the location, number and total monthly rent of all Substitute Service Family Accommodation and Substitute Service Single Accommodation properties.

Substitute service family accommodation

Location	*Number of properties*	*Total monthly rent (£)*
Aberdeen	2	2,900.00
Birmingham	109	118,327.09
Bath	22	36,420.40
Blackburn	5	2,881.30
Bradford	1	1,200.00
Bournemouth	29	32,346.42
Bolton	8	5,770.00
Brighton	4	6,156.00
Bromley	1	2,605.00
Bristol	13	13,781.55
Carlisle	4	2,870.00

Substitute service family accommodation

Location	*Number of properties*	*Total monthly rent (£)*
Cambridge	20	22,606.50
Cardiff	13	12,031.63
Chester	7	6,148.20
Chelmsford	9	10,542.40
Colchester	2	1,630.00
Croydon	3	2,735.00
Canterbury	4	3,825.00
Coventry	24	20,551.36
Crewe	1	2,250.00
Dundee	3	3,341.55
Derby	2	1,470.00
Dumfries	2	1,975.00
Durham	5	3,335.00
Darlington	34	24,386.99
Doncaster	3	2,156.65
Dorchester	29	28,468.93
Dudley	2	3,395.00
London E	3	5,965.41
Exeter	26	22,440.98
Falkirk	11	11,307.20
Glasgow	8	9,285.00
Gloucester	10	10,429.19
Guildford	18	25,722.87
Harrow	17	35,389.12
Huddersfield	2	1,328.55
Harrogate	1	1,195.00
Hemel Hempstead	[illegible]	246,264.94
Hereford	[illegible]	74,163.56
Hull	9	7,909.18
Halifax	4	3,150.00
Ipswich	9	8,841.15
Kilmarnock	3	2,925.00
Kensington upon Thames	5	14,115.00
Liverpool	18	18,145.00
Lancaster	14	10,404.36
Lanrindodd Wells	2	1,330.00
Leicester	7	6,370.00
Llandudno	12	9,615.15
Leeds	8	7,410.00
Luton	5	7,531.80
Manchester	4	3,510.00
Milton Keynes	10	11,009.70
London N	3	5,658.33
Newcastle	5	5,656.50
Nottingham	55	41,133.83
Newport	9	8,107.00
London NW	5	10,493.16
Oldham	4	3,070.00
Oxford	179	211,953.44
Paisley	2	1,588.75
Peterborough	3	4,825.00
Plymouth	94	72,626.78
Portsmouth	18	24,922.00
Preston	10	7,190.70
Reading	4	5,900.00
Redhill	1	1,425.00
Sheffield	11	9,245.00
Swansea	15	11,119.55
London SE	5	10,726.67
Stevenage	3	4,745.00
Stockport	7	6,155.41
Slough	21	50,167.83
Sutton	1	3,225.00
Swindon	24	24,187.80
Southampton	71	70,741.11
Salisbury	56	78,263.49
Sunderland	2	1,628.70
Southend on Sea	1	875.00
Stock on Trent	4	3,025.00
London SW	12	34,816.24
Shrewsbury	6	7,218.00
Taunton	18	14,791.10
Berwick upon Tweed	3	1,820.00
Tonbridge	6	10,800.75
Torquay	3	3,220.00
Truro	32	29,435.89
Middlesbrough	17	15,753.45
Twickenham	3	7,409.45
Uxbridge	4	8,125.00
London W	12	34,093.30
Warrington	4	3,065.75
Watford	3	6,150.00
Wakefield	1	853.00
Wigan	1	800.00
Worcester	5	6,270.00
Walsall	1	1,063.70
Wolverhampton	2	2,370.00
York	25	21,445.50
Shetland Islands	1	1,150.00
Total	1,563	1,821,172.31

Substitute service single accommodation

Location	*Number of properties*	*Total monthly rent (£)*
Aberdeen	17	10,022.25
Bath	169	121,030.79
Belfast	3	1,595.00
Berwick upon Tweed	2	1,070.00
Birmingham	271	185,421.87
Blackburn	6	3,615.00
Blackpool	60	38,020.12
Bolton	17	8,336.06
Bournemouth	9	6,345.00
Bradford	2	1,165.00
Brighton	19	14,254.25
Bristol	437	295,682.26
Bromley	7	7,212.75
Cambridge	45	29,211.04
Canterbury	31	20,398.47
Cardiff	52	31,270.55
Carlisle	24	11,224.86
Chelmsford	8	5,515.62
Chester	36	24,177.16
Colchester	132	60,325.87
Coventry	30	17,731.21
Crewe	3	1,640.00
Croydon	9	6,521.08
Darlington	87	45,301.61
Dartford	3	2,966.05
Derby	5	3,305.00
Doncaster	8	4,144.68
Dorchester	10	6,442.25
Dudley	2	1,529.90
Dumfries	3	1,525.00
Dundee	29	17,337.51
Durham	4	2,350.00
Edinburgh	69	44,926.28
Enfield	2	2,000.00

Substitute service single accommodation

Location	*Number of properties*	*Total monthly rent (£)*
Exeter	36	20,815.76
Falkirk	24	12,645.55
Glasgow	235	144,580.99
Gloucester	39	26,610.42
Guildford	168	123,113.84
Halifax	2	1,147.00
Harrow	11	8,208.95
Harrogate	13	7,802.12
Hemel Hempstead	4	2,896.12
Hereford	146	91,118.16
Huddersfield	2	1,052.33
Hull	82	39,146.00
Ilford	6	4,948.21
Inverness	18	9,184.99
Ipswich	87	41,721.34
Kensington upon Thames	16	15,998.97
Kilmarnock	39	21,400.98
Kirkcaldy	8	4,710.45
Kirkwall	3	1,478.59
Lancaster	151	72,118.04
Lanrindodd Wells	34	16,896.87
Leeds	35	20,253.45
Leicester	24	17,165.98
Lincoln	1	527.50
Liverpool	72	42,547.89
Llandudno	42	23,756.42
London E	214	219,114.09
London EC	10	9,767.08
London N	32	31,521.49
London NW	64	76,611.62
London SE	180	202,879.37
London SW	470	563,050.99
London W	72	83,211.80
London WC	1	1,516.67
Luton	17	10,190.00
Manchester	43	27,277.95
Medway	5	3,528.33
Middlesbrough	19	11,192.00
Milton Keynes	33	35,142.92
Motherwell	2	1,140.00
Newcastle	92	56,265.03
Newport	46	27,281.08
Northampton	1	525.00
Norwich	7	4,218.00
Nottingham	26	15,478.10
Oldham	3	1,924.30
Oxford	28	23,238.08
Paisley	7	4,114.75
Perth	14	8,135.24
Peterborough	9	4,960.00
Plymouth	31	15,337.63
Portsmouth	57	40,144.18
Preston	47	28,589.76
Reading	17	13,283.12
Redhill	10	7,300.45
Romford	6	4,666.55
Salisbury	122	80,003.81
Sheffield	38	21,537.17
Shrewsbury	7	4,417.50
Slough	23	21,029.65
Southampton	26	18,255.03
Southend on Sea	3	1,842.00
Stevenage	6	2,805.84
Stock on Trent	13	7,522.30
Stockport	4	2,710.00
Sunderland	4	2,370.00
Sutton	2	1,438.70
Swansea	18	10,967.60
Swindon	86	56,431.64
Taunton	14	8,444.36
Telford	8	3,935.00
Tonbridge	47	31,413.24
Torquay	2	1,310.00
Truro	16	9,605.87
Twickenham	63	64,573.15
Uxbridge	1	775.00
Wakefield	15	7,325.52
Walsall	7	4,891.05
Warrington	23	14,062.70
Watford	5	3,875.00
Wigan	3	1,875.00
Wolverhampton	4	2,491.65
Worcester	7	3,298.96
York	61	42,257.77
Total	5,100	3,768,532.50

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on *(a)* Substitute Single Service Accommodation and *(b)* Single Living Accommodation in each region in each year since 2004. [299835]

Mr. Kevan Jones: For details of the current monthly expenditure on substitute single service accommodation (SSSA) broken down by region, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I have given him today.

Details of the actual amounts spent in each year by region on SSSA and SLA are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the following total amounts were spent on SSSA in each year since 2004:

	Expenditure (£ millions)
2004	32.9
2005	36.8
2006	40.5
2007	44.5
2008	50.9

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what countries the regimental recruiting teams have visited in each of the last five years. [299975]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Army recruiting teams (ARTs), formerly known as regimental recruiting teams, operate in the United Kingdom and are not active overseas.

The Army's overseas pre-selection teams do travel to those Commonwealth countries where interest in joining the army is high to conduct pre-selection tests among those who have already applied to join the British Army, although they have not done so since 2008. The list of countries visited in the last five years is provided in the following table:

Financial year of visit	*Countries visited*
2009-10	None
2008-09	Fiji, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Belize
2007-08	Fiji
2006-07	Fiji
2005-06	None

Armed Forces: Social Security Benefits

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will discuss with the Chancellor of the Exchequer the provision of national insurance credits for spouses of armed forces personnel refused state benefits on the grounds that they have not paid sufficient national insurance contributions. [291977]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

The Service Command Paper The Nation's Commitment: Cross-Government Support to our Armed Forces, their Families and Veterans' (Cm 7424) published in July 2008 contained the Department's commitment to award Class 1 National Insurance Credits to spouses and civil partners of service personnel posted overseas with effect from April 2010. This will enable more members of service personnel families to qualify for Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 743W, on "armed forces: training", what the percentage shortfall of *(a)* night vision goggles and *(b)* body armour used for pre-deployment training was in the latest period for which figures are available. [289093]

Bill Rammell: Our priority is to get new equipment to the front line as quickly as possible for use by personnel facing the greatest risk. However, we also look to ensure that sufficient new equipment is provided for troops during pre-deployment training. All new urgent operational business cases now include a clear requirement that sufficient quantities of equipment are procured and delivered for training before they are deployed operationally.

The last period for which figures are available was the Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRX) for 11 (Light) Brigade in July 2009. Body armour was available to all those taking part in the exercise. Theatre Entry Standard 'Osprey' body armour was prioritised to those whose roles take them out of base locations—approximately two thirds of the total force. Theatre Entry Standard 'Osprey' was available at pre-deployment training to 45 per cent. of these troops. The availability in theatre is 100 per cent. for those who deploy outside of base locations. 1,000 additional sets of Osprey will have been delivered for training by the time of the MRX for the next brigade to deploy to Afghanistan.

This will result in an availability rate of 62 per cent. for those whose roles take them out of base locations and will continue to rise as industry delivers. By sharing equipment, all troops have an opportunity to train on theatre entry standard 'Osprey' prior to deployment. The inventory of night vision devices covers a range of equipment including weapon sights. For some of these deliveries are not yet complete. For the 11 (Light) Brigade MRX, availability ranged from 100 per cent. to 12 per cent. Priority was given to those who will be required to use it most in theatre and all will have been trained in the use of night vision devices in theatre. As with 'Osprey', additional equipment is being constantly delivered to ensure UK forces have the best equipment available and there will be improved availability in time for the MRX for the next brigade to deploy.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on replacing the ceremonial uniforms of *(a)* the Grenadier Guards, *(b)* the Coldstream Guards, *(c)* the Scots Guards, *(d)* the Irish Guards and *(e)* the Welsh Guards in each of the last five years. [299607]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The annual expenditure for ceremonial uniforms for each of the listed Guard's Regiments in the last five financial years is provided in the following table. These figures include expenditure on hats, boots, belts, jackets, trousers and gloves.

£ million

Guard Regiment	*FY 2004-05*	*FY 2005-06*	*FY 2006-07*	*FY 2007-08*	*FY 2008-09*
Grenadier Guards	0.154	0.038	0.170	0.349	0.282
Coldstream Guards	0.056	0.151	0.290	0.146	0.188
Scots Guards	0.045	0.028	0.172	0.069	0.185
Irish Guards	0.330	0.033	0.172	0.114	0.872
Welsh Guards	0.011	0.129	0.163	0.109	0.086

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual level of spare part availability is for each (i) armoured vehicle type and (ii) aircraft type in the armed forces (A) overall and (B) in Afghanistan. [297942]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information for armoured vehicles is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on spares availability for rotary-wing aircraft is not held in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The required level of spares for fixed-wing aircraft is included in contractual agreements with industry or is set by the Front Line Command. The achieved level of available spares is measured as part of these agreements.

The following information for the required and achieved level of spares for each fixed-wing aircraft fleet is provided as at September 2009 unless otherwise stated. The level of spares for operational deployments to Afghanistan is not recorded separately unless otherwise stated.

Fixed Wing Aircraft

Aircraft	*Requirement (1)*	*Achieved*
Typhoon	Provided under an aircraft availability contract with industry	—
Tornado GR4[2]	Provided under an aircraft availability contract with industry	—

Fixed Wing Aircraft

Aircraft	*Requirement (1)*	*Achieved*[1]
Tornado F3	Provided under an aircraft availability contract with industry	—
Harrier GR7/ GR9/T10/T12	90 per cent. of spares to be delivered within [illegible] required delivery date.	94 per cent.
Nimrod MR2/R1	Provided under an aircraft availability contract with industry	—
Tristar	85 per cent.	82 per cent.
VC10	80 per cent.	91 per cent.
Sentry	Provided under an aircraft availability contract with industry[3]	—
Sentinel	75, 95 and 95 per cent. of spares[4] to be delivered within the required delivery date	83, 100 and 97[5] per cent.
Hercules C-130J/K	Provided under an aircraft availability contract with industry	—
C-17	Provided under an aircraft availability contract with industry	—
BAE 146	Spares availability is not measured[6]	—
BAE 125	Spares availability is not measured	—
Dominie	Spares availability is not measured	—
Hawk T1/T2	Provided under an aircraft availability contract with industry	—
Tucano	Provided under an aircraft availability contract with industry	—
Jetstream	Spares availability is not measured	—
Vigilant Glider	Spares availability is not measured	—
Viking Glider	Spares availability is not measured	—
Islander and Defender	80 per cent.	66 per cent.

[1] Percentage figures have been rounded to the nearest whole per cent.

[2] The actual deployed level of spares in Afghanistan on 1 September 2009 was 99 per cent.

[3] This corrects an earlier answer I gave on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 310-12W.

[4] 75 per cent. figure is for mission non-critical spares, 95 per cent. is for mission critical spares and 95 per cent. is for consumables.

[5] This was for the period July to September 2009.

[6] These aircraft are military derivatives of civil aircraft. Spare parts are procured on a 'just-in-time' basis from the civil market to supplement minimum stock holdings held at the main and forward operating bases.

Defence Estates: Sales

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the amount raised by the sale of Defence Estates stock in each of the last five years. [299976]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Defence estates is the Ministry of Defence (MOD) organisation responsible for the disposal of the Department's surplus sites. The total accrued receipts from MOD land and property sold in each of the last five financial years is provided in the following table:

Financial year	*Total receipts (£ millions)*
2004-05	212
2005-06	258
2006-07	394
2007-08	1,100
2008-09	110

It is not possible to break these figures down by type of property sold without incurring disproportionate cost and effort.

Defence Estates: West Sussex

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on the Defence Estate in West Sussex. [299780]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Department, both centrally and at a local level, maintains a wide variety of information on the Defence estate, including that in West Sussex. This includes databases of land and property owned and disposed of, environmental information (such as land quality assessments) and site maps.

Current Ministry of Defence sites in West Sussex are:

Arun Valley Army Training Centre (ATC)
Baker Barracks, Thorney Island
Barnet Territorial Army Centre (TAC)
Bognor Joint Cadet Centre
Building at Pease Pottage (Met Office)
Burgess Hill ATC
Chichester Army Careers Information Office
Chichester Cadet Centre
Crawley ATC
Crawley TAC
East Grinstead ATC
Government Pipeline and Storage System—Chichester Depot
Grave Snell Hatch Cemetery
Haywards Heath Cadet Centre
Horsham Cadet Centre
Hurstpierpoint (Army Cadet Force—ACF)
Littlehampton (ACF)
New Barnet Army Training Centre (ATC)
Plot at Clymping Cemetery
Semi-Automated Observation Site (Met Office)
Shoreham Cadet Centre
Steyning Joint Cadet Centre
Storrington ATC
Thorney Island TAC
Worthing ATC
Worthing TAC

There are in addition a number of combined cadet forces facilities connected with colleges or schools in the area.

Defence Medical Services

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many agency staff of each speciality have been employed in the Defence Medical Services in each of the last five years; and what expenditure was incurred on such staff in each year. [295647]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Where a particular cadre or specialism is in short supply within the regular and reserve staff of the Defence Medical Services, a limited number of civilian locums may be employed to provide essential support to deployed operations. These are known as Contractors on Deployed Operations (CONDOs), and the following table lists the numbers employed and the costs for the last five years. Individual CONDOs are not deployed for the full financial year—a typical deployment period would be from around six weeks for nurses to three months for neurosurgeons and pharmacists.

In the table provided, ITU stands for intensive treatment unit and EN for emergency nurse.

Financial year	*Specialism*	*Operation*	*Number of individuals employed as civilian locums*	*Cost (£ million)*
April 2004-March 2005	ITU and EN	Telic (Iraq)	50	1
April 2005-March 2006	ITU and EN	Telic	50	1.1
April 2006-March 2007	ITU and EN	Telic	54	1.155
April 2007-March 2008	ITU and EN	Telic	38	0.565
	ITU and EN	Herrick (Afghanistan)	15	0.458
	Neurosurgeon	Herrick	1	0.154
April 2008-March 2009	ITU and EN	Herrick	31	1.760
	Neurosurgeon	Herrick	3	0.520
	Pharmacist	Herrick	1	0.060
April 2009-August 2009	ITU and EN	Herrick	21	0.570
	Paediatric nurse	Herrick	2	0.080
	Pharmacist	Herrick	1	0.010
	Neurosurgeon	Herrick	2	0.130

Medical locums are also employed to cover military posts in the UK when cover is required, for example when personnel deploy on operations. Their employment is arranged locally by the units for which it is required, and managed from within local budgets. Comprehensive data for the last five years from all such units are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Defence: Research

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Lancaster and Wyre (Mr. Wallace) of 1 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1799W, on "defence: research", what research programmes will be *(a)* cancelled and *(b)* reduced in scale as a result of the reduction in planned science innovation and technology expenditure in 2010-11. [297589]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The scope of future research programmes in the following areas: Maritime, Land, Air, Weapons, C4ISTAR and ballistic missile defence will be reduced compared to previous plans, as a consequence of the reduction in research expenditure.

There are no plans to cancel existing contracts.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department's information assurance procedures have been subject to an independent audit. [299372]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Department's information assurance procedures have been subject to regular independent audit or reviews. These are typically conducted by the Communications-Electronic Security Group (CESG) as the National Technical Authority for Information Assurance, by auditing firms, or by independent third parties.

Departmental Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with which organisations his Department has had exclusivity agreements relating to information technology *(a)* hardware and *(b)* software in each of the last five years. [299298]

Mr. Quentin Davies: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the statistical datasets collected by his Department are published. [299670]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As a matter of course, the MOD publishes all of its datasets which meet the definition of 'official statistics' set out in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. The statistics are published in accordance with the requirements set out in the 'Code of Practice for Official Statistics' and the 'National Statistician's Guidance on the Presentation and Publication of Official Statistics'.

Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters of each type are *(a)* in service, *(b)* in the forward fleet and *(c)* fit for purpose. [297886]

Bill Rammell: I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested shortly.

Hotels: Expenditure

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on hotel bills in 2008-09. [299149]

Mr. Kevan Jones: We spent some £50 million on hotel bills in 2008-09. This figure represents the expenditure incurred through the central Defence Hotel Reservation Service, through which the majority of the MOD's hotel bookings are increasingly being made.

Included in this figure is expenditure by both military and civilian staff in the Department, the Defence Agencies and the Defence Support Group Trading Fund. Excluded is expenditure by our other trading funds and our advisory non-departmental bodies, which do not use the central contract. Also excluded is expenditure incurred outside the Defence Hotel Reservation Service; for example, where the costs of accommodation are included in a residential training package or where overnight accommodation is arranged at the last minute.

Iraq/Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department has incurred on engaging private security companies and private military companies for work undertaken in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each of the last three years. [291780]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested shortly.

Navy: Casualties

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many Royal Navy personnel have been injured whilst taking part in operations in the *(a)* Indian Ocean, *(b)* Atlantic and *(c)* Pacific in the last two years; [293814]

(2) how many Royal Navy personnel have been injured whilst taking part in Operation Active Endeavour in the last two years. [293817]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Between 1 October 2007 and 30 September 2009 there have been two seriously injured Royal Navy personnel while taking part in operations in the Indian Ocean, including one seriously injured Royal Navy personnel injured on Operation Telic. There were no seriously injured Royal Navy personnel injured on operations in the Atlantic ocean and no seriously injured Royal Navy personnel injured in the Pacific ocean.

Between 1 October 2007 and 30 September 2009 there have been two seriously injured Royal Navy personnel while taking part on Operation Active Endeavour.

These data include those listed as very seriously injured and seriously injured as reported through the notification of casualties reporting system. Individuals have been included if they have been injured while assigned to a ship whilst taking part in operations in the Indian ocean (including those injured within the joint area of operation for Op. Telic), Atlantic or the Pacific, or on Operation Active Endeavour.

Nuclear Submarines: Decommissioning

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 41W, on nuclear submarines: decommissioning, whether the Scottish Executive have accepted the invitation to participate in the initial scoping phase of the Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Submarine Dismantling Project; and when the scoping phase is due to commence. [298361]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Scottish Executive have accepted this invitation.

The initial scoping phase is due to commence following a period of engagement with elected representatives in areas with sites that have the potential to undertake Submarine Dismantling Project activities. The precise date, however, has yet to be determined.

Reserve Forces: Pensions

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 9 November 2009 to Question 298468, in what ways the Reserve Forces Pension Scheme differs from the pension scheme offered to regular armed forces. [299821]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The two pension schemes are broadly similar. Copies of MMP/123 "Reserve Forces Pension and Compensation Benefits" and MMP/124 "Armed Forces Pension Scheme 05: Your Pension Scheme Explained" will be placed in the Library of the House. These booklets can also be found on the Ministry of Defence website at the following link:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/WhatWeDo/Personnel/Pensions/ArmedForcesPensions/

The main differences between the two pension schemes are in the areas of qualification period for benefits, the ability to accrue additional periods of service, the payment of an Early Departure Payment and the timing of pension payments.

Territorial Army

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much of the £20 million allocated to the Territorial Army has been spent; [299971]

(2) what recent orders have been issued to Territorial Army commanders on training and training costs; [299972]

(3) when Territorial Army commanders will be permitted to resume training; [299973]

(4) what timetable has been set for the disbursement to Territorial Army (TA) units of the £20 million allocated for the TA. [299977]

Mr. Kevan Jones: On 2 November 2009, orders were issued providing direction to restore most of the activity that had previously been identified as unaffordable. Commanders have been given discretion to reinstate activity within the context of this guidance as soon as they are able. The guidance directs commanders to focus training activity on those TA personnel earmarked for operations and to undertake limited training activity to ensure continuity of service for those not deploying immediately on operations.

It is not possible to confirm how much of the £20 million allocated to the Territorial Army (TA) has already been spent. An initial disbursement has already been made to the regional divisions. The remaining funds will be disbursed at intervals throughout the financial year.

Territorial Army: West Sussex

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Territorial Army units are based in West Sussex; and where their headquarters are. [299781]

Bill Rammell: The Territorial Army units based in West Sussex are: 6 Platoon, 'B' Company, 3rd Battalion, The Princess of Wales Royal Regiment, whose headquarters are in Brighton; and Headquarters 103rd Battalion, The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, whose headquarters are in Crawley.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to answer Question number 292151, on the defence research budget, tabled on 9 October 2009. [299974]

Bill Rammell: I replied to the hon. Member on 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 404W.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS hospital trusts did not meet the four-hour maximum wait target for accident and emergency in *(a)* each, *(b)* seven, *(c)* six, *(d)* five and *(e)* four of the last eight quarters. [299905]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Tables showing which hospital trusts did not meet the national standard for accident and emergency four-hour maximum waiting times in *(a)* each, *(b)* seven, *(c)* six, *(d)* five and *(e)* four of the last eight quarters will be placed in the Library shortly.

Alcoholic Drinks/Drugs: Brighton and Hove

Ms Barlow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated to services for youths with alcohol or drug dependency in *(a)* the city of Brighton and Hove and *(b)* Hove constituency. [299836]

Gillian Merron: Funding is allocated by local drug partnership areas (coterminous with local authorities), not constituency. From 2010-11 funding for specialist substance misuse services for young people will be allocated using a new formula, the Child Welfare Index (CWI), to reflect more accurately the levels of need among under-18s. This mirrors a change to the formula for adult drug treatment funding in 2008-09 to ensure that money was directly linked to the provision of effective treatment. The overall young people's budget will increase from £24.7 million in 2009-10 to £25.4 million in 2010-11.

The full formula comes into effect in 2011-12 but in 2010-11 it is being staged in order to give partnerships time to adapt and prevent disruption to the provision of services. So those partnerships that stand to lose will have their losses restricted to 25 per cent. of the full reduction, and those which stand to gain will have the increase capped. This process is reflected in the figures for Brighton and Hove local partnership in the following table.

Brighton and Hove local drug partnership funding allocations

	Funding allocations
2009-10 theoretical allocation based on CWI formula (£)	132,890
2009-10 actual allocation (£)	191,739
Staged 2010-11 allocation (£)	177,027
Difference between 2010-11 and current allocation (£)	-14,712
2010-11 allocation as proportion of current allocation (percentage)	92
2011-12 allocation (£)	136,656
Difference between 2011-12 and current allocation (£)	-55,083
2011-12 allocation as proportion of current allocation (percentage)	71

The cost of alcohol treatment is met through national health service mainstream expenditure in line with local needs and priorities, and data on NHS spend on alcohol treatment is not collected centrally.

Ms Barlow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people under the age of 18 have received alcohol and drug dependency services in Hove constituency in the last 12 months. [299852]

Gillian Merron: Young people's drug or alcohol misuse is part of a wider pattern of problematic behaviour, which is addressed by specialist services that are different from adult alcohol and drug dependency services. Very few of these young people are dependent, and interventions tend to centre on psychosocial counselling-based therapies, which address the underlying causes and the behavioural consequences of cannabis and alcohol (the most commonly misused substances among under-18s).

The national drug treatment monitoring system (NDTMS) does not publish figures by constituency but by local drug partnership area. According to the NDTMS, in 2007-08, the most recent period for which figures are available, there were 125 under-18s in Brighton and Hove in contact with specialist substance misuse treatment services. Figures for 2008-09 will be published later this year.

Ambulance Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to collect statistics centrally on the number of ambulances responding to a 999 call without having a paramedic on board. [299829]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government have no plans to collect this information centrally. It is for individual ambulance trusts to ensure that ambulances are staffed appropriately.

Ambulance Services: Vehicles

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the proportion of NHS ambulances which were manufactured in the UK. [299580]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not held centrally. Individual trusts determine locally how and where they purchase ambulance vehicles to meet operational requirements.

Anaemia

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the incidence of pernicious anaemia; and if he will make a statement. [298279]

Ann Keen: The Department does not itself compile any quantitative data on incidence of pernicious anaemia, as this condition is generally treated by general practitioners at primary care level. Some data are available from the General Practice Research Database, which contains longitudinal medical records from primary care practices accounting for approximately 5 per cent. of the United Kingdom population. On this basis, it is estimated that there were approximately 14,700 incident cases of pernicious anaemia in the UK in 2008.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission research into the merits of enabling patients diagnosed with pernicious anaemia to manage their conditions through self-injection of methyl cobalamine; and if he will make a statement. [298277]

Phil Hope: The National Institute for Health Research Health Technology Assessment Programme (HTA) commissions research where there is a gap in the knowledge the NHS has about healthcare treatment and tests. Suggestions about research topics are always welcome and can be made to the HTA via its website at

www.hta.ac.uk/suggest

Antibiotics

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions for antibiotics were dispensed in each primary care trust area in *(a)* 2001 and *(b)* 2008. [299825]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information at primary care trust level is not available for 2001. Figures for 2008, taken from the Prescribing Analysis and Cost tool (PACT) system have been placed in the Library.

Burnley Hospital

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which categories of accidents and emergencies are admitted for treatment at Burnley general hospital. [299904]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally.

Burns: Health Services

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on proposals for a regional super burns unit in the North West; and if he will make a statement. [299614]

Ann Keen: Since the recommendations of the National Burn Care Review were accepted as a national framework for local implementation, a number of representations have been made to the Department with regard to the proposals for the North of England. The details of these are available only at disproportionate cost. The most recent representation was made by a delegation of North West MPs—my right hon. Friend the Member for Knowsley, North and Sefton, East (Mr. Howarth), and my hon. Friends the Members for Halton (Derek Twigg), for St. Helens, North (Mr. Watts), for Liverpool, Riverside (Mrs. Ellman), for Liverpool, Walton (Mr. Kilfoyle) and for Knowsley, South (Mr. O'Hara)—to my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, at a meeting on 24 June 2009.

The North West Strategic Health Authority (SHA), as lead SHA, is currently reviewing the recommendations of the Northern Burn Care Review as part of the service change assurance process. On 11 November 2009 the North West SHA released a statement on the current position and a copy has been placed in the Library. We are aware of the strong feelings on Merseyside about the future of burns services. In any debate about the future of burns care, it is important that successful services are not destabilised. The North West Strategic Health Authority have given their view that there is no compelling evidence to make the case for change.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of the review of burns services in the North of England has been in each year since 2003. [299823]

Gillian Merron: This information is not collected centrally.

Cannabis: Misuse

Chloe Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* hospital admissions and *(b)* deaths there were caused by the use of cannabis in (i) the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital and (ii) all hospitals in each year since 1997. [298257]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is provided in the following tables.

Table 1: Number of finished admission episodes where the primary diagnosis was poisoning by cannabis and the first secondary diagnosis was accidental or intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to narcotics and psychodysleptics for Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and for England, 1997-98 to 2008-09

	Number of finished admission episodes	
	Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	England
1997-98	*	143
1998-99	0	132
1999-2000	0	146
2000-01	0	112
2001-02	0	138
2002-03	0	129
2003-04	*	187
2004-05	0	162

Table 1: Number of finished admission episodes where the primary diagnosis was poisoning by cannabis and the first secondary, diagnosis was accidental or intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to narcotics and psychodysleptics for Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and for England, 1997-98 to 2008-09

	Number of finished admission episodes	
	Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	*England*
2005-06	0	157
2006-07	0	82
2007-08	0	92
2008-09	0	123

Notes:

1. *Patient Confidentiality*

To protect patient confidentiality, suppression has been applied where the number was between one and five.

2. *ICD-10 Codes*

The ICD-10 code t40.7 was used to provide data for poisoning by cannabis and ICD-10 codes X42 and X46 were used to provide data for accidental or intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to narcotics and psychodysleptics.

3. *Finished admission episodes*

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

4. *Primary diagnosis*

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

5. *Secondary diagnosis*

As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 19 secondary diagnosis fields in Hospital Episode Statistics that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.

6. *Assessing growth through time*

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

7. *Data quality*

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Table 2: Number of deaths where drug poisoning was the underlying cause of death, and cannabis was mentioned on the death certificate, either alone or in combination with other substances for Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and for England, 1997 to 2008

	Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust		*England*	
	Cannabis mentioned alone	*Cannabis mentioned with other substances*	*Cannabis mentioned alone*	*Cannabis mentioned with other substances*
1997	0	0	0	2
1998	0	0	0	1
1999	0	0	0	1
2000	0	0	0	1
2001	0	0	0	2
2002	0	0	0	4
2003	0	0	0	1
2004	0	0	1	1
2005	0	0	1	3
2006	0	0	0	2
2007	0	0	0	1
2008	0	0	1	1

Notes:

1. *Cause of death*

Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD- 9) for the years 1997 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD- 10) from 2001 onwards. Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (shown in the following table), and where cannabis was mentioned on the death certificate.

2. *Death registration*

Information recorded at death registration on place of death is provided by the informant if the death is certified by a medical practitioner, or by the coroner if the death is certified by a coroner.

3. The term 'hospital' includes NHS, non-NHS and military hospitals.

4. Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

5. Figures are not available for deaths which may be indirectly related to the misuse of drugs (e.g. HIV infection or transport accident), as the more immediate cause is generally selected as the underlying cause of death.

Source:

Office for National Statistics.

Description	*ICD-9*	*ICD-10*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)	292, 304, 305.2-305.9	F11-F16, F18-F19
Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	E850-E858	X40-X44
Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	E950.0-E950.5	X60-X64
Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	E962.0	X85
Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent	E980.0-E980.5	Y10-Y14

Care Homes: Standards

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of care homes in each region which do not meet national minimum standards of care. [299642]

Phil Hope: We are informed by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) that, when inspecting care homes against the national minimum standards (NMS), CQC rates their performance using a four point system:

1—Standard not met with major shortfalls

2—Standard not met with minor shortfalls

3—Standard met

4—Standard exceeded.

There are two sets of NMS—for care homes for older people, which comprise 38 different standards and for care homes for younger adults, which comprise 43 standards. CQC will decide which set of NMS to inspect against depending on the age profile of residents of a home.

Care homes are scored against each standard but they are not given an overall score so it is not possible to give information on the number of care homes that fail the standards. The following table shows the numbers of scores of 1 and 2 (i.e. instances where a standard was failed) for the year ending 31 March 2009—the latest available information—as a percentage of the total number of scores in each region (i.e. the total number of standards assessed across all care homes of each type in the region).

Percentage

CQC region	*Care homes for older people*	*Care homes for younger adults*
East Midlands	16	12
Eastern	17	13
London	15	13
North East	15	11
North West	14	13
South East	14	12
South West	14	12
West Midlands	20	18
Yorkshire and Humberside	17	13

Source:
CQC database at 31 March 2009

Cervical Cancer: Screening

Chloe Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average frequency was of screening for recurrences of cervical cancer in the latest period for which figures are available. [298161]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally.

The cervical screening process stops at the point a woman is diagnosed with cervical cancer, when the local gynaecological multi-disciplinary team (MDT) assume responsibility for her care. The follow-up regimen for that particular woman, which may include cervical screening depending on the form of treatment received, is decided on by the clinical decisions of the MDT.

Christmas

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on Christmas (i) cards, (ii) parties and (iii) decorations in the last 12 months. [299268]

Phil Hope: The amount spent on purchasing ministerial Christmas cards for 2008 (inclusive of VAT) was £2,701.37. This does not include postage costs which are not available due to some cards being included with other correspondence or being hand delivered.

In December 2008, the Department spent £2,903.75 on Christmas trees and decorations.

Under the Department's Code of Business Conduct, public money must not be used to fund occasions such as social gatherings, retirements or office parties.

All expenditure incurred in the purchase of Christmas cards and decorations is incurred in accordance with the principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Information on what agencies spend on these items is not held centrally.

Contraceptives

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* total number of and *(b)* net ingredient cost of each type of (i) contraceptive and (ii) contraceptive device dispensed in the community was in each primary care trust area in England in each year since 1997. [299059]

Gillian Merron: Information at primary care trust level is not available for further than five years back. The current data-set covers September 2004 to August 2009. Figures for this period, taken from the Prescribing Analysis and CosT tool (PACT) system, have been placed in the Library.

Dental Services

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answers of 3 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 914-15W, on dental services, which individuals *(a)* represented the working group and *(b)* were interviewed in the case of each hospital; and in what format the notes of those meetings were recorded. [299759]

Ann Keen: The members of the working group who visited each hospital were:

Royal Lancaster Infirmary Barry Cockcroft (Chief Dental Officer England) Peter Rubin (Chairman PMETB) and Rachel Noble (PMETB Secretariat);

Great Western Swindon Barry Cockcroft Peter Rubin and Rachel Noble;

Royal Sussex Brighton Barry Cockcroft Rajiv Anand (Oral and Maxillofacial Fellows in Training representative) and Jerry Read (Section Head Oral Health and Dental Education Department of Health);

Sunderland Royal Infirmary Barry Cockcroft Ian Cumming (Deputy Chairman, PMETB) Ian Martin (Chairman of Council, British Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery) and Rachel Noble;

The Royal London Barry Cockcroft Jerry Read and Rachel Noble; and

Southern General Glasgow Aileen Keel (Deputy Chief Medical Officer Scotland and PMETB Observer) Ian Cumming and Rachel Noble.

They met with clinicians and managers working in the oral and maxillofacial surgery units of these hospitals. Notes were taken in manuscript at the scene of the visits.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2009. [299556]

Phil Hope: The percentage and value of invoices paid within 10 days to commercial suppliers in September and October is shown in the following table.

	Percentage of invoices paid within 10 days to commercial suppliers	*Total value of invoices paid within 10 days to commercial suppliers*
September 2009	97.98	85,282,220.07

	Percentage of invoices paid within 10 days to commercial suppliers	*Total value of invoices paid within 10 days to commercial suppliers*
October 2009	96.66	99,419,847.02

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department's information assurance procedures have been subject to an independent audit. [299377]

Phil Hope: The Department carried out an audit of its information assurance procedures in May 2009. This audit was guided by an independent external accreditor.

Departmental Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* energy rating and *(b)* energy band of each building occupied by his Department and its agencies was in each year for which figures are available. [299700]

Phil Hope: The ratings and energy bands for Departmental buildings are as follows:

	2008 rating	*2008 energy band*	*2009 rating*	*2009 energy band*
Skipton House	203	G	194	G
Richmond House	139	F	146	F
Wellington House	157	G	186	G
Quarry House	107	E	101	E
Hexagon House	593	G	[1]—	[1]—
Vantage House	200	G	200	G
Market Towers	163	G	200	G
Premier House	289	G	276	G
Lightfoot Street	79	D	80	D

[1] = Pending.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answers of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 862W, and 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1675W, on departmental freedom of information, if he will place in the Library a copy of the information provided on each topic in respect of which the request was *(a)* agreed to and answered in full and *(b)* agreed to and answered in part since April 2009; and if he will make a statement. [298342]

Gillian Merron: The following table provides a breakdown of the number of requests under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act to the Department of Health since April 2009: *(a)* requests agreed to and answered in full; and *(b)* agreed to and answered in part since April 2009. A copy of the material provided in each case has been placed in the Library.

FOI requests to the Department of Health for information on abortions; reproductive health, contraception and euthanasia, requests agreed to and answered in full; and agreed to and answered in part since April 2009

	1 April to 5 November 2009
Total FOI requests	8
Agreed/answered in full	4
Agreed/answered in part	4
Refused	0
Information Commissioner's Office appeals	1
Successful appeals	0

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department were employed on the management of freedom of information requests submitted to his Department in each year since 2005; and how much his Department spent on the management of such requests in each such year. [299142]

Phil Hope: Information on numbers of staff is shown in the table, and is based on for those staff for whom management of freedom of information requests comprises more than 50 per cent. of their substantive role:

Financial year	*Number of staff*
2005-06	9
2006-07	8
2007-08	7
2008-09	[1]6
2009-10	[2]10

[1] 8 from June 2008.

[2] 11 from October 2009.

The information requested on expenditure could be provided only at disproportionate cost. An assessment of the cost of freedom of information within Government can be found in Frontier Economics 2006 report "Independent Review of the Freedom of Information Act". A copy of this report has already been placed in the Library.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department and its agencies in 2008-09. [299282]

Phil Hope: The Department cannot provide the details requested without the cost involved being at a disproportionate level. Data come from disparate sources and in different formats, which increases the manual effort required to identify the expenses of individuals.

During 2008-09, 41 departmental officers worked as press officers for all or part of the year in question. There is no statutory requirement to report the reimbursable expenses of officials who are not covered by the remuneration report. Departmental officials who claim business expenses do so in line with the published expenses guide. The rates are agreed with the departmental trade unions and are in line with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs's regulations.

Departmental Postal Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of postal services for his Department and its agencies were provided by *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* other postal service providers (i) in 2007, (ii) in 2008, (iii) between 1 January 2009 and 1 July 2009 and (iv) after 1 July 2009. [298796]

Phil Hope: The percentage use of postal services for the Department is as follows:

	Percentage	
	Royal Mail	*Other postal service providers*
2007	100	0
2008	100	0
January 2009 to July 2009	100	0
July 2009 onwards	100	0

The percentage use of postal services for Purchasing and Supply Agency is as follows:

	Percentage	
	Royal Mail	*Other postal service providers*
2007	100	0
2008	100	0
January 2009 to July 2009	100	0
July 2009 onwards	100	0

The percentage use of postal services for the Medicines and Health Regulatory Authority is as follows:

	Percentage	
	Royal Mail	*Other postal service providers*
2007	100	0
2008	100	0
January 2009 to July 2009	53	47
July 2009 onwards	60	40

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with which providers *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies had a contract to provide postal services in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, (iii) between 1 January 2009 and 1 July 2009 and (iv) since 1 July 2009. [299425]

Phil Hope: The Department and the Purchasing and Supply Agency have contracted with Royal Mail for the period 2007 to present for the provision of postal services.

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency have contracted for the provision of postal services as follows:

2007—Royal Mail

2008—Royal Mail

2009—Royal Mail, Global Mailing.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department and its agencies on procurement under tender because the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last 12 months. [299351]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Yes, this information is reported in the Department's resource accounts.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the statistical datasets collected by his Department are published. [299667]

Phil Hope: The Department publishes all of its datasets which meet the definition of 'official statistics' set out in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. The statistics are published in accordance with the requirements set out in the 'Code of Practice for Official Statistics' and the 'National Statistician's Guidance on the Presentation and Publication of Official Statistics'.

The Department's official statistics published in the last year can be accessed on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/DH_077094

and in addition can be accessed via the UK Statistics Authority Release Calendar at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/release-calendar/index.html

The Department also holds a range of other quantitative information for management and other purposes some of which is made available to the public on request. Following the National Statistician's recent guidance, it will be preparing a "Statement of Administrative Sources" in line with the expectations of the "Code of Practice on Official Statistics".

Disabled: Employment

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the Government's objectives of improving capacity to work amongst those with chronic debilitating conditions. [299194]

Andy Burnham: I met with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions recently and our discussion included what is available to support individuals with disabilities and health conditions, including Pathways to Work and the Condition Management programme. We discussed that good work leads to improved health outcomes and helps disabled people and those with health conditions live fulfilling and independent lives. Further details will be set out in the back to work White Paper. Our Departments are committed to working together to provide the most effective support for people with health conditions.

Drugs: Licensing

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what interventions *(a)* have been assessed and *(b)* are being assessed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) through its (i) single technology appraisal and (ii) multiple technology appraisal process; and on what date (A) each such intervention was referred to NICE (B) NICE (1) commenced and (2) completed its appraisal of each intervention and (C) those interventions which received a licence were licensed by NICE. [297319]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested has been placed in the Library. The information shows technology appraisals published or referred since the introduction of the single technology appraisal (STA) process at the end of 2005. Prior to this point, the STA and multiple technology appraisal (MTA) distinction did not apply.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence does not license medicines. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and the European Medicines Agency are responsible for licensing new drugs and license extensions.

Drugs: Misuse

Chloe Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many admissions with a primary diagnosis of poisoning by *(a)* class A, *(b)* class B and *(c)* class C drugs there were to (i) the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital and (ii) all hospitals in each year since 1997. [298255]

Gillian Merron: This information is not collected centrally.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people under the age of 18 in *(a)* England, *(b)* West Yorkshire and *(c)* Leeds are on waiting lists to receive treatment for drug addiction. [299644]

Gillian Merron: Waiting time figures for young people aged under-18 for England, Yorkshire and The Humber and Leeds are presented in the following table.

Waiting times for first specialist substance misuse treatment interventions[1] for young people 2007-08.

[1] Specialist substance misuse treatment interventions for young people include alcohol interventions.

	Less than 3 weeks (number)	*Less than 3 weeks (percentage)*	*More than 3 weeks (number)*	*More than 3 weeks (percentage)*
England	19,340	93	1,374	7
Yorkshire and The Humber	1,718	97	57	3
Leeds	45	94	3	6

Data are provided for 2007-08. Figures for young people accessing substance misuse services in 2008-09 will be published later in the year.

'First Interventions' are defined as the date that the client was referred into the treatment system requiring a specialist substance misuse treatment intervention.

Young people's drug or alcohol misuse will be part of a wider pattern of problematic behaviour, which specialist services seek to address. Very few of these young people are addicted or receive treatment for drug addiction. Instead, interventions for young people tend to centre on psychosocial counselling-based therapies, which attempt to address the underlying causes and the behavioural consequences of cannabis and alcohol misuse (the most commonly misused substances among under-18s).

E. Coli

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate of e.coli infection was in each primary care trust area in *(a)* 2001 and *(b)* 2008. [299824]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held centrally.

Eating Disorders

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bed days on adult eating disorder units were recorded for patients under the age of 16 years in each quarter of the last three years. [299203]

Phil Hope: The data available centrally are for all bed use in adult mental health units and are not broken down to reflect use of adult eating disorder beds.

Exercise: Health Education

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff within his Department have responsibility in their jobs for the promotion of *(a)* physical activity and *(b)* smoking cessation. [297808]

Gillian Merron: There are eight full-time staff in the Physical Activity Programme team and three full-time staff in the Cross Government Obesity team who deal with promotion of physical activity in the central Department.

There are in addition other programmes within the Department, which contribute towards promotion of the physical activity through their own policy areas such as Healthy Schools, Further Education, Children and Young People's Health Programme and Change4Life etc.

The two full-time staff members are smoking cessation delivery managers in the central Department. The programme lead for supporting local tobacco control also contributes time to this work, but her overall responsibilities are for the promotion of local tobacco control.

Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of whether the practice of companies *(a)* routinely refusing to make available to independent scientists the standardised samples that are required to conduct high quality research on genetically modified products on the market and *(b)* insisting on the right to veto the publication of results, is (i) in line with the Government's Chief Scientist's guidance on sound science and (ii) in the interests of public confidence in the Chief Scientist's public statement that genetically modified food is safe to eat because there is no research which shows it to be harmful. [299812]

Gillian Merron: Genetically modified (GM) foods may not be marketed in the European Union unless they have been rigorously assessed for safety. These assessments are carried out by the European Food Safety Authority and products are authorised only if they are found not to present a risk to the consumer.

There is a strong public interest in the publication of high quality research into GM food safety and the availability of authentic test materials and corresponding control materials are among the pre-requisites for such research to take place. Companies may choose to impose conditions on purchasers of their products and, in the case of some GM materials, certain limitations may be necessary to ensure compliance with the regulations that govern their use. Generally, however, it is in the best interests of the manufacturers if the scientific community is able to conduct independent research into these products.

Health Services: Lincolnshire

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many medical centres have opened in North East Lincolnshire since 1997. [299631]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on the numbers of new general practitioner (GP) surgeries opened is not collected centrally.

However, Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Health Authority has confirmed that North East Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust (PCT), as part of its 10-year estates strategy to transform local primary care premises launched in 2002, has since 2004 delivered nine major developments comprising eight new primary care/medical centres, and an extension to an existing practice. Work is continuing to develop a further four schemes.

This includes a new GP-led health centre opened as part of the Government's policy to have a new GP-led health centre in every PCT, open from 8 am to 8 pm, 365 days a year, which patients can attend on a walk-in basis or by appointment. Patients can register with the centres if they find this convenient or use the service while remaining registered at their existing practice.

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS through the European Health Insurance Card reclaimed from each other EU member state in each of the last seven calendar years. [298301]

Gillian Merron: This information is not available. Up until October 2009, costs incurred by the NHS for care provided to temporary visitors from other European economic area (EEA) member states were only reclaimed through bilateral arrangements. Since October 2009, the Department has had the necessary infrastructure in place to allow the UK to reclaim actual costs from other EEA member states whose citizens present their European Health Insurance Card when obtaining necessary healthcare from the NHS.

Hospital Beds

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital beds were occupied for how many nights by patients ready for discharge in the last five financial years. [298294]

Phil Hope: Delayed transfers of care are collected to support the Community Care Act 2003. When we first collected this it was for delays from acute beds only. This was amended to include non-acute beds. This was in December 2006.

These data are used for reimbursement between the national health service and social care for delayed discharges.

The table shows the split by acute and non acute beds. Delayed discharges from acute beds has fallen almost every year. For non acute beds data of 2006-07 (460,000) is not for a full year. Delayed discharges from non acute beds fell from 2007-08 to 2008-09.

Delayed transfers of care—SitReps

	Acute	*Non-acute*
2004-05	860,930	—
2005-06	777,767	—
2006-07	770,501	461,586
2007-08	690,333	1,179,366
2008-09	691,572	972,694

Hospital Wards: Greater London

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made on the provision of single sex wards at *(a)* Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals, *(b)* Northwick Park Hospital and *(c)* the Royal Free Hospital; and if he will make a statement. [296598]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally. It is for local national health service organisations to plan, develop and improve services for local people.

The then Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson) announced on 28 January 2009, the Department's commitment to all but eliminate mixed-sex accommodation. This is being taken forward by means of the Department's Delivering Single Sex Accommodation programme of activities.

Every patient has the right to receive high quality care that is safe, effective and respects their privacy and dignity. The NHS is committed to providing every patient with same-sex accommodation, because it helps to safeguard their privacy and dignity when they are often at their most vulnerable. This means providing a same-sex sleeping area, bathroom and toilet facilities.

As part of the programme, a £100 million "Privacy and Dignity Fund" was distributed via strategic health authorities (SHAs) to support local trust proposals.

London SHA distributed:

£1,435,932 to Barnet and Chase Farm hospitals for 14 schemes that have all now been completed;

£122,000 to Northwick Park hospital (North West London hospital NHS trust) for two schemes that have all now been completed; and

£109,800 to Royal Free hospital for three schemes that have all now been completed.

The £100 million "Privacy and Dignity Fund" to support improvements has commenced on local trust proposals. There are currently 1,157 schemes in total across more than 200 trusts and the Department is monitoring the schedules of work. The schemes include over 1,200 education and training programmes to assist staff in providing a better patient experience of care.

Over 2,300 new or refurbished toilets and bathrooms, for easier patient access and some 10,800 extra modesty curtains to improve patient privacy.

More than 75 per cent. of the schemes are now complete with the number expected to rise to 96 per cent. by the end of December, a small number of schemes will continue beyond this date due to the nature and complexities of the work.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital patients acquired infections other than MRSA or *Clostridium difficile* during a stay in hospital in each of the last five years. [300073]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

Hospitals: Private Finance Initiative

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what private finance initiative hospital projects are due to be approved in the next *(a)* month, *(b)* six months and *(c)* 12 months. [299921]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Private finance initiative (PFI) schemes have to progress through a business case approvals process before they can sign contracts and begin construction. Approvals take place at the key points of a schemes development under a system of delegated authority to ensure they are affordable and delivering value for money at all times. In terms of business case approvals expected over the next 12 months, the position is as follows, starting with the most advanced scheme:

North Bristol NHS Trust is expected to submit the final confirming business case (for final contract signature) for its £484 million scheme to the Department and Treasury for approval in 2010;

The Department and Treasury is planning to announce a decision on the approval of the outline business case for the £204 million Papworth Hospitals NHS Foundation PFI scheme shortly;

Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust has submitted the outline business case for its £477 million PFI scheme to the Department after approval by the strategic health authority. It is too early to say when the Department and subsequent Treasury approvals will be completed; and

The outline business case for the £235 million PFI scheme for Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust has recently been approved by the strategic health authority and is expected to be formally submitted to the Department shortly. Again, it is too early to say when the Department and subsequent Treasury approvals will be completed.

There are no other health sector PFI projects that are in an advanced stage of development.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's policy on private finance initiative projects. [299922]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: To be approved, the private finance initiative (PFI) option for every national health service capital investment project must demonstrate in a business case that it meets the service requirements of the procuring NHS body (e.g. an NHS trust); is affordable to that body and the local health economy as a whole; and is value for money when compared to the public capital funded alternative (known as the public sector comparator (PSC)). Under this Government, 87 PFI schemes worth nearly £7 billion have become operational with a further 14 worth nearly £4 billion under construction.

Hospitals: Standards

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the outcome of the recent inspection of Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust by the Health and Safety Executive was; and if he will make a statement. [296595]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. The information on the recent inspection of Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS trust is held by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

All national health service organisations have a duty to comply with health and safety legislation and are subject to inspection by the HSE.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for a hospital appointment in each primary care trust in Tamworth constituency was in each year since 1995. [296253]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information has been supplied to the hon. Member.

In Vitro Fertilisation: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure sufficient provision of in-vitro fertilisation treatment on the NHS in Leeds. [299645]

Gillian Merron: The provision of fertility treatment by primary care trusts (PCTs) is determined at a local level. The Government support the clinical guideline on the assessment and treatment for people with fertility problems produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and have made it clear that PCTs are expected to move towards full implementation of the guideline. The Yorkshire and Humber Specialised Commissioning Group is currently carrying out a consultation regarding the funding of in-vitro fertilisation (IVF), which the hon. Member may wish to contribute to.

This year the Department published a commissioning aid, produced by the expert group on commissioning national health service infertility provision, to help PCTs assess need locally, learn about infertility treatment techniques and monitor uptake of services. The Department has also funded the leading fertility patient support organisation, Infertility Network UK, to produce and publish standardised access criteria for fertility services. Both the commissioning aid and a link to the access criteria can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Fertility/index.htm

together with the results of regular monitoring of NHS provision of IVF.

The Department continues to fund Infertility Network UK to work directly with PCTs to advise on the particular needs of patients with fertility problems. The Department is also developing a national tariff for NHS fertility services, to help more treatment to be offered at a standardised cost in more locations.

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of his Department's agencies which are required to introduce a duty to involve citizens in local decision-making and service provision under section 138 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 have established a mechanism for doing so. [299917]

Phil Hope: Neither of the Department's agencies is required to introduce a duty to involve citizens in local decision-making and service provision under section 138 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Marmot Review

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects Sir Michael Marmot's review of health inequalities to be published. [299204]

Gillian Merron: Professor Sir Michael Marmot's post 2010 strategic review of health inequalities will be published in the early part of 2010.

Meningitis: Vaccination

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many vaccinations against meningitis were made in 2008-09; how many people refused a vaccination in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [299739]

Gillian Merron: Meningitis can be caused by a number of different infections, some of which are vaccine-preventable. The vaccine-preventable diseases that can cause meningitis and the relevant vaccines are tabled as follows:

Disease	*Number of doses of vaccine and age given*	*Vaccine(s) used*
Meningitis C (MenC)	Two doses in the first year of life and one dose in the second year of life	Meningitis C vaccine and Combined Hib/MenC vaccine
Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib)	Three doses in the first year of life and one dose in the second year of life	Combined DTaP/IPV/Hib vaccine and Combined Hib/MenC vaccine
Pneumococcal	Two doses in the first year of life and one dose in the second year of life	Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV)
Mumps	One dose in the second year of life and one dose in the fourth year of life	Measles, mumps and rubella vaccine (MMR)
Tuberculosis	One dose to selected at risk groups	Bacillus Calmette-Guerin vaccine (BCG)

Vaccine coverage data for the financial year April 2008 to March 2009, broken down to SHA and PCT level, are published as part of the NHS immunisation statistics at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/immstats2008-2009

A copy has been placed in the Library.

The Department does not collect data on the number of vaccines refused.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funds his Department *(a)* spent on meningitis vaccination development in 2008-09 and *(b)* plans to spend on meningitis vaccination development in 2009-10. [299740]

Gillian Merron: Departmentally funded research on meningitis vaccine development is undertaken by the Health Protection Agency. The Agency's total expenditure on the topic in 2008-09 was £1.7 million. An expenditure figure for 2009-10 is not yet available.

Muscular Dystrophy

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will include in the forthcoming Health White Paper adoption of the Standards of Care for People Living with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy recently agreed internationally; and if he will make it his policy that new genomic medicines for Duchenne are trialled and monitored via a network of Duchenne centres of excellence. [291769]

Ann Keen: Work on a formal response to the recommendations in the report of the Lords Science and Technology select committee inquiry into genomic medicine will be published later in the year.

It is for clinicians to locally determine the appropriate standards of care in line with published guidelines. However, the clinical champions network that is being established will be able to promote standards of care.

Arrangements for clinical trials of new therapies for the treatment of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy are primarily the responsibility of the biomedical and pharmaceutical companies concerned. The National Institute for Health Research Clinical Research Network provides a health service infrastructure to support clinical trials and other well-designed studies funded by both commercial and non-commercial organisations.

The Government have a proud record of encouraging and supporting the development of genetic technologies, both in research and their application in the wider national health service. Through focusing on patient-centred provision of effective health care, the Department will continue to work closely with, patients, stakeholders and partners to achieve this aim.

NHS Counter Fraud Service

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the budget of the NHS Counter Fraud Service was in each of the last five financial years; [298963]

(2) how many staff were assigned to the NHS Counter Fraud Service in each of the last five financial years; [298964]

(3) how much has been recovered by the NHS Counter Fraud Service in each of the last five years; [298965]

(4) how many cases were investigated by the NHS Counter Fraud Service in each of the last five years; [298966]

(5) how many people were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of charges relating to fraud against the NHS in each of the last five years. [298967]

Ann Keen: The information is shown in the following table.

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
NHS Counter Fraud Service budget (£ million)	13.893	11.521	11.620	10.491	10.298
Staff in post	289	246	197	170	195
Value of financial recoveries (£)	7,111,243	26,948,619	2,035,814	6,046,917	2,000,420
Number of fraud investigations	305	272	409	351	415
Number of prosecutions	60	71	65	60	72
Number of convictions	56	68	[1]62	57	69

[1] This figure corrects the information given in the written answer to the hon. Member for North Norfolk on 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1124W.

NHS: Computer Software

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest estimate is of the average number of hours per week that users of the Lorenzo software system are logged in at *(a)* Five Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust, *(b)* Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, *(c)* University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust, *(d)* Hereford Hospitals Trust and *(e)* South Birmingham Primary Care Trust. [299168]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

NHS: Drugs

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 735W, on "NHS: drugs", about which pharmaceutical products his Department has received reports of supply problems; and what the nature is of each supply problem reported to his Department. [295614]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Shortages occur for a number of reasons, including manufacturing or regulatory problems, and at any one time the Department will be aware of a number of shortages. We have received reports about a number of medicines that are reportedly subject to export due to the decline in the value of the £ sterling. We also receive reports of medicines subject to supply problems that may be attributed to such exports. The drugs affected by shortages change with time. Any list of such drugs will not be an accurate or complete list.

NHS: Private Sector

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* NHS providers which had not provided assurance to the NHS Chief Executive by 30 September 2009 that the NHS guidance of 23 March 2009 on NHS patients who wish to pay for additional private care was being followed, as requested in the NHS Chief Executive's letter of 30 July 2009, gateway reference 12199; if he will place in the Library a copy of all responses received to the Chief Executive's letter; and if he will make a statement. [297397]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: All strategic health authorities (SHAs) have submitted initial responses to the letter of 30 July 2009 from Lyn Simpson, the director of NHS Operations, gateway reference 12199. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library. All SHAs have assurance processes under way to ensure that the issues outlined in the letter are addressed. The Department is working with SHAs to discuss the information received and the progress of action plans so far.

In the new year, when these discussions will have concluded, I will also place responses for each individual SHA in the Library.

NHS: Standards

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions the National Quality Board has met to discuss the discontinuance of NHS targets in each of the last six months; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the relevant minutes of each such meeting. [299685]

Ann Keen: The National Quality Board met for the first time in March 2009. There have been three subsequent meetings. The National Quality Board has not discussed the removal of NHS targets at any of the meetings. The minutes of all board meetings are published on the Department of Health's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Highqualitycareforall/NationalQualityBoard/index.htm

Nutrition

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government is taking to ensure that food and drink companies are able to promote the nutritional benefits of their products after the 19 January 2010 deadline for compliance with the nutrition claims annex under the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation EC 1924/2006. [297970]

Gillian Merron: The nutrition claims annex already lists a range of nutrition claims such as 'low saturated fat', 'low salt', 'high fibre' that may be made on food products meeting the associated criteria. The European Commission has circulated draft proposals which would amend some of the existing claims and add new claims (for example 'no added salt' and 'now contains X % less salt/fat/saturated fat') to the list.

With the 19 January deadline in mind, the Commission's aim is that these amendments to the annex should be agreed as soon as possible. The Food Standards Agency, on behalf of the Government, is actively engaged in discussing these amendments with other European Union member states.

Nutrition: Carers

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* information and *(b)* guidance his Department produces to carers on supporting the nutritional needs of those for whom they care. [299098]

Phil Hope: A wide range of information and guidance can also be accessed through the NHS Choices information service, www.nhs.uk, which includes a specific section for carers. 'Carers Direct' provides carers with information that allows them to get the services and support they need, including advice on healthy eating. The site also includes links to interactive tools on healthy eating self-assessments for all lifestyles.

The Department has also published the "Nutrition Action Plan: Improving Nutritional Care", on 30 October 2007. This outlines how nutritional care and hydration can be improved and suggests five key priority areas through which managers and staff working in health and social care can address this. The key priorities for action are to:

raise awareness of the link between nutrition and good health;

ensure that accessible guidance is available across all sectors;

encourage nutritional screening for all people using health and social care services;

encourage provision and access to relevant training on the importance of nutrition for good health; and

clarify standards and strengthen inspection and regulation.

This information is contained in the "Nutrition Action Plan: Improving Nutritional Care", which has been placed in the Library.

Oesophagus Cancer

Chloe Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* oncologists and *(b)* trainee oncologists specialising in oesophageal cancer there are in each region. [298160]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Specialist oesophageal cancer oncologists are not separately identified within the NHS workforce census.

Out of Area Treatment: Wales

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients who live in England have received medical *(a)* treatment and *(b)* consultation in Wales in each year since 1997. [299830]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not held in the Department.

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients who live in Wales have received medical *(a)* treatment and *(b)* consultation in England in each year since 1997. [299875]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation because the information will take time to collate. I will write to the hon. Member when I have the information.

Palliative Care: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 584W, on palliative care: finance, how the £40 million has been disbursed; and how much each hospice received. [299576]

Phil Hope: The 2010-11 £40 million capital budget for hospices has not yet been disbursed. Hospices are currently preparing applications for funding from the budget. The deadline for applications to Help the Hospices, which is managing the programme on behalf of the Department of Health, is, 8 January 2010. Funding will be disbursed in 2010-11 and information on which hospices have received funding will be published in due course.

Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust spent on healthcare in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [300119]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is a matter for Peterborough and Stamford hospitals NHS foundation trust. We have written to Mr. Nigel Hards, chair of Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, informing him of the hon. Gentleman's inquiries. He will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished consultant episodes there were in Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [300120]

Phil Hope: The following table shows a count of finished consultant episodes[1] at Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust from 2001-02 to 2008-09.[2]

	Finished consultant episodes
2008-09	91,782
2007-08	88,626
2006-07	79,386
2005-06	79,964
2004-05	80,195
2003-04	77,501
2002-03	72,495

	Finished consultant episodes
2001-02	66,596

[1] *Finished consultant Episode (FCE)* A FCE is defined as a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

[2] *Assessing growth through time* HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the national health service have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time *Data quality* HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Princess Diana Hospital Grimsby: Manpower

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses were employed at the Princess Diana Hospital in Grimsby (i) in 1997 and (ii) at the latest date for which figures are available. [299627]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The number of national health service staff in the Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust as at 30 September each year is shown in the following table.

National health service hospital and community health services

		Headcount
	1997	2008
Medical and dental staff	350	499
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,664	1,826

Notes:

1. In 2002, North East Lincolnshire NHS Trust and Scunthorpe and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust merged to form Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust. Figures for 1997 are an aggregate of these two predecessor organisations.

2. Data are not available at an individual hospital level on the work force census. The Princess Diana Hospital in Grimsby is part of the Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

3. Data Quality: Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Sources:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

Rheumatology: East Midlands

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how long on average waiting times were for rheumatoid arthritis patients for follow-up consultations with a rheumatology specialist in *(a)* North West Leicestershire constituency and *(b)* the East Midlands in each year since 2001. [299868]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect waiting times data for follow-up consultations at specialty level.

Data published by the Department, Department of Health Monthly Activity Return (MAR) and Quarterly Activity Return (QAR), looking on an all-speciality basis show that the ratio of subsequent attendance (follow-up) to first out-patient appointment has remained broadly stable over the last three years at around two (subsequent attendances) to one (first out-patient appointment).

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of access of rheumatoid arthritis patients to specialist multi-disciplinary teams in *(a)* North West Leicestershire and *(b)* the East Midlands; [299870]

(2) what recent assessment has been made of the quality and consistency of *(a)* ongoing care and *(b)* specialist care for rheumatoid arthritis patients in (i) North West Leicestershire constituency and (ii) the East Midlands. [299871]

Ann Keen: The Department has not made any specific assessment of access to or quality of care services for people with rheumatoid arthritis.

It is the responsibility of primary care trusts as commissioners of healthcare services to ensure that their populations have access to the services that they require.

The Department has published a good practice commissioning pathway for inflammatory arthritis. All 18 weeks commissioning pathways provide information to illustrate what services should be commissioned and provided in different levels of care.

Skin Piercing

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of banning ear and body piercing for under 16 year olds without parental consent; and if he will make a statement. [299851]

Gillian Merron: Ear and body piercing for cosmetic purposes are lawful and there is no statutory minimum age of consent. Minors are able to give valid consent if they are capable of understanding the nature of the act to be done.

There are no current plans to introduce legislation to make body piercing of minors a criminal offence, as introducing a minimum age of consent might result in children piercing themselves or each other in an unhygienic or unsafe manner or going to disreputable businesses.

Guidance on issues relating to the age of consent for cosmetic piercing is contained in the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) Local Authority Circular (LAC) 76/2:

"Enforcement of Skin Piercing Activities." This guidance recommends that businesses are advised to adopt reasonable age restrictions and involve parents where appropriate. The guidance is available on the HSE website at:

www.hse.gov.uk/lau/lacs/76-2.htm

A copy has been placed in the Library.

Smoking: Death

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce the number of smoking-related deaths. [298809]

Gillian Merron: The Government are committed to reducing the number of smoking-related deaths. Our comprehensive tobacco control strategy introduced in 1998. In England there are around 2.4 million fewer smokers, with smoking prevalence down from 28 per cent. in 1998 to 21 per cent. in 2007.

The existing six-strand tobacco strategy tackles smoking and the effects of smoke on other people. Our achievements over the past decade include:

> comprehensively banning advertising of tobacco in print, on billboard and on the internet in 2003; introducing Smokefree legislation that made all enclosed public places and workplaces smokefree from 1 July 2007 to protect people from the harm caused by exposure to second-hand smoke; raising the age of sale of tobacco from 16 to 18-years-old in October 2008; introducing hard-hitting pictorial health warnings on cigarette packets in 2008; providing free NHS Stop Smoking Services in all areas across the country for the last 10 years, resulting in over four million quit dates being set and 70,000 lives being saved over the 10-year period.

In addition the Health Bill, which has just completed its stages in both Houses, includes provisions to remove tobacco displays from shops and prohibit the sale of tobacco from vending machines, primarily to reduce uptake of smoking by young people.

Smoking still kills more than 80,000 people in England each year, which is why we are to developing a new tobacco control strategy. The new strategy follows on from a successful public consultation—'Consultation on the Future of Tobacco control', which received nearly 100,000 responses. The new strategy will be published by the end of this year.

Smoking: Health Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how the NHS Stop Smoking Service records people who after stopping smoking through use of the service subsequently start smoking again and are referred back to the service; [299571]

(2) what records are kept by the NHS Stop Smoking Service of the proportion of those recorded as giving up smoking who *(a)* remain non-smokers and *(b)* start smoking again; [299572]

(3) what checks his Department carries out on the accuracy of statistical records kept by the NHS Stop Smoking Service. [299573]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is not available centrally.

The provision of free national health service stop smoking services across England for the last 10 years has resulted in over 4 million quit dates being set and 70,000 lives being saved over the 10 year period.

Records of quit attempts are collected and managed at local level by the NHS Stop Smoking Service. "NHS Stop Smoking Services: Service and monitoring Guidance 2009-10" gives advice on client relationships and how best to draw on experiences from previous quit attempts. The guidance also contains clear recommendations regarding biochemical validation (carbon monoxide monitoring) of clients who report having stopped smoking at the four week point.

A copy of the guidance has been placed in the Library.

Swine Flu: Vaccination

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he has taken to assess whether the target groups for swine influenza vaccine received the vaccine; [299747]

(2) what instructions have been given by his Department to primary care trusts on the distribution of swine influenza vaccine. [299748]

Gillian Merron: The director of NHS Flu Resilience wrote to primary care trust (PCT) chief executives on 16 September, 15 October and 3 November 2009 setting out the planning and delivery expectations for local delivery of the swine flu vaccination programme. In addition, the Chief Medical Officer wrote to the NHS on 15 October 2009 giving more detail around how the vaccination programme would roll out. The letters have been placed in the Library.

PCT progress in leading the local delivery of the vaccination programme is closely overseen by strategic health authority (SHA) pandemic-flu leads. These SHA leads meet on a regular basis with departmental officials to review and resolve any issues that have arisen. Data are being collected about uptake of vaccination in the priority high risk groups and NHS staff.

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) for what reasons the administration of the swine influenza vaccination to priority groups was delayed; [299807]

(2) if he will make it his policy to ensure that all general practitioner surgeries use the same list of priority groups to be offered the swine influenza vaccine; [299808]

(3) for what reasons non-frontline medical staff are being offered the swine influenza vaccine ahead of stated priority groups; [299809]

(4) for what reasons a three-week period must elapse between the delivery of each batch of the swine influenza vaccine to a general practitioner surgery. [299810]

Gillian Merron: There has been no delay to the swine flu vaccination programme. The speed of distribution of vaccine to the national health service has been governed by the rate of deliveries of licensed vaccine from the manufacturer.

Initial supplies of vaccine reached NHS trusts on 21 October and primary care trusts on 26 October, in order to vaccinate frontline health care workers and in-patients in the priority at risk groups.

Distribution of vaccine to general practitioner practices has been carried out over a three week period. This has been governed by the rate at which we have received deliveries from the vaccine manufacturers.

The priority groups for vaccination, including frontline health and social care workers, were identified in the letter from the chief medical officer dated 13 August a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, and this has been reiterated in subsequent communications to NHS staff. The implementation of this work is the responsibility of local NHS organisations.

Local decisions about which staff are providing frontline healthcare are being made on a pragmatic basis to ensure that staff are able to effectively protect themselves, their patients and their colleagues.

Tobacco: Advertising

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the effect on retailers of the prohibitions on tobacco advertising. [300074]

Gillian Merron: The Department is in close contact with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the subject of tobacco advertising; paying particular attention to any impact which regulation may have on retailers and others.

The reduction in the prevalence of tobacco advertising has contributed to the declining prevalence of smoking and to the protection of young people from campaigns aimed at recruiting new smokers. This progress has been achieved without any significant adverse impact on retailers.

Tobacco: Young People

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the merits of making it an offence for a young person aged under 18 years to attempt to buy cigarettes and tobacco for the purposes of preventing such behaviour; and if he will make a statement. [298657]

Gillian Merron: Protecting young people from smoking was a key theme of the 2008 Consultation on the Future of Tobacco Control and will be one of the overarching goals of the new tobacco control strategy that will be published by the end of this year.

The Government believe that reducing the availability of tobacco through the enforcement of existing legislation, while using supportive means to prevent young people taking up smoking, is preferable to introducing new legislation which would criminalise youth. In addition to the existing legislation, the Health Bill which has just completed its stages in both Houses, introduces provisions to remove tobacco displays from shops and prohibit the sale of tobacco from vending machines, primarily to reduce uptake of smoking by young people.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many departmental trade union side officers are employed by his Department; and how many full-time equivalent staff members exclusively undertake union activities. [299295]

Phil Hope: The Department formally recognises three trade unions:

Public and Commercial Services union (PCS);

FDA; and

Prospect.

Four union officials (3.2 whole-time equivalents) are employed exclusively on union duties in the Department.

Currently there are three full-time elected roles for the PCS, each exclusively undertaking union activities, but totalling 2.6 whole time equivalents. Prospect has one official working part-time (0.6 whole time equivalent) working exclusively on union activities. The FDA official does not work exclusively on union duties and is employed by one of the Department's policy directorates.

The unions also collectively elect two posts in the Departmental Trade Union Side team (1.6 whole-time equivalents).

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's departmental trade union side officers agreement. [299296]

Phil Hope: A copy of the Department's Facility Agreement with our three recognised unions has been placed in the Library.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes from his policy meeting with the Trades Union Congress and Unite of 10 September 2009. [299687]

Phil Hope: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health met with trade union representatives on 10 September 2009 for a discussion under Chatham House rules, and as such will be unable to release the minutes of the meeting.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions he has met trade union representatives since June 2009. [299688]

Ann Keen: Our records show that the Secretary of State for Health has met with trade union representatives seven times since June 2009.

Transplant Surgery: Bedfordshire

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients from Mid Bedfordshire constituency have had transplant surgery in the UK since *(a)* January 2009 and *(b)* August 2009. [299080]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

Urgent Care Centres

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which urgent care centres are *(a)* nurse-, *(b)* doctor- and *(c)* consultant-led; and if he will make a statement. [299827]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Wheelchairs: Young People

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice his Department has issued to primary care trusts on their provision of insurance cover for the wheelchairs and mobility scooters they supply to younger people with disabilities. [299860]

Ann Keen: The Department has not issued any such guidance. However, it is standard practice in national health service procurement to require suppliers to have adequate product and public liability insurance cover in place.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time is in each primary care trust for those under the age of 18 years for the provision of a wheelchair; and whether there are any arrangements for their provision by a third party in each trust. [299861]

Ann Keen: Information is not collected centrally on waiting times for wheelchairs for children. It is for each primary care trust to assess local needs and allocate funding accordingly. They are best placed to determine which type of wheelchair is provided, after detailed clinical consultations and patient evaluation.

CABINET OFFICE

10 Downing Street: Gift Shop

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many sales there have been of each stock item in the Downing Street gift shop in the last 12 months. [299458]

Angela E. Smith: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Businesses

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many new businesses have started in *(a)* Vale of Clwyd constituency and *(b)* each region in each of the last 20 years. [299760]

Angela E. Smith: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many small businesses there were in *(a)* Vale of Clwyd and *(b)* each region in each of the last 20 years. [299761]

Angela E. Smith: It has not proved possible to respond the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Census

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 55WS, on the draft Census (England and Wales) Order 2009, (1) which Minister approved the wording and proposed questions in the draft Order for the 2011 Census; [299249]

(2) whether a privacy impact assessment has been prepared in relation to the proposed questions to be asked in the 2011 Census; [299406]

(3) whether she plans to publish a privacy impact assessment for the 2011 Census; [299462]

(4) what her most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of the 2011 Census; and in which years such expenditure is expected to be incurred; [299448]

(5) whether the results of the 2011 Census rehearsal that took place in October 2009 will be published; [299479]

(6) what maximum fine may be imposed on a householder for not answering, in whole or in part, the 2011 Census. [299482]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking

i) which Cabinet Office Minister approved the wording and proposed questions in the draft Order for the 2011 Census; (299249)

ii) whether a privacy impact assessment has been prepared in relation to the proposed questions to be asked in the 2011 Census; (299406)

iii) when the privacy impact assessment for the 2011 Census will be published; (299462)

iv) what the most recent estimated total cost of the 2011 Census to the public purse is; and in which years the expenditure will be incurred; (299448)

v) whether the results of the 2011 Census rehearsal that took place in October 2009 will be published; (299479)

vi) what maximum fine may be imposed on a householder for not answering, in whole or in part, the 2011 Census. (299482)

i) The proposed questions in the Draft Census Order (England and Wales) 2009 have been created independently from Ministers by the Office for National Statistics following extensive consultation. The wording of the Draft Census Order was subsequently approved by Angela E. Smith, Minister of State for the Cabinet Office, and by Welsh Ministers in the Welsh Assembly, prior to the Order being laid in Parliament. The Domestic Affairs Committee was informed.

ii and iii) Privacy considerations have been integral in determining the recommended questions. A privacy impact assessment has been prepared and is due to be published on 20 November on the census website.

iv) the most recent estimated total cost of the 2011 Census in England and Wales is £482 million. This covers the period 2005-2016. The following table gives a breakdown by year.

	£ million
2004-05	1.9
2005-06	3.7

	£ million
2006-07	6.5
2007-08	10.4
2008-09	45.4
2009-10	44.7
2010-11	158.6
2011-12	179.3
2012-13	16.7
2013-14	8.2
2014-15	4.8
2015-16	1.7
Total	482.0

Provision of £450 million has been made up to the period 2011-2012. Provision for later years will be subject to future spending reviews and will cover the final stages of data and output processing, dissemination and a number of subsequent output services and releases.

The cost and financial control of the 2011 Census was outlined in the White Paper "Helping to shape tomorrow" which was published in December 2008

http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-project/legislation/index.html

v) The main aims of the rehearsal which is being undertaken in areas within Lancaster, Isle of Anglesey and Newham were to:

prove the field procedures

prove the effective management of the rehearsal operation

prove the key field supporting systems

prove the recruitment, training and payment of field staff

prove that an address register of sufficient quality can be delivered

prove local authority and community liaison

rehearse the integration of systems and subsequent data processing

test the census communications campaign.

There are no plans to release statistical output from the rehearsal but an evaluation report will be published in spring 2010.

vi) The penalty for non-completion of a census return is specified in Section 8 (1) of the Census Act 1920 which states "a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale". The standard scale is that set out in the Criminal Justice Act and is currently a maximum of £1,000. The imposition and amount of the fine is at the discretion of the Magistrate within the limits of the standard scale under the Criminal Justice Act.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what directions Ministers have given to the UK Statistics Authority on the 2011 Census under section 2 of the Census Act 1920, as amended. [299469]

Angela E. Smith: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Charities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many charities were removed from the Charity Commission's register for *(a)* ceasing to exist or operate due to merger, incorporation or transfer of funds, *(b)* ceasing to exist or operate for other reasons, *(c)* voluntary removal below the minimum threshold and *(d)* duplicate registrations and other corrections in each financial year since 1997-98. [299477]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Nick Allaway, dated 10 November 2009:

As Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, Andrew Hind has been asked to answer your written question regarding removals from the Register of Charities. As the Executive Director with responsibility for this area of our work, I am responding in his absence. You asked how many charities were removed from the Charity Commission's Register for (a) ceasing to exist or operate due to merger, incorporation or transfer of funds, (b) ceasing to exist or operate for other reasons, (c) voluntary removal below the minimum threshold and (d) duplicate registrations and other corrections in each financial year since 1997-98.

The table below sets out the number of charities which were removed from the Register, in each financial year, since 1997-1998 with the reasons recorded for their removal.

Reason for removal	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Total*
Ceased to exist or operate due to merger, incorporation or transfer of funds	915	1,126	1,252	1,068	1,444	1,179	1,430	1,602	1,592	1,725	1,436	1,584	16,353
Ceased to exist or operate for other reasons	4,304	3,300	7,371	4,928	3,637	3,214	3,654	3,842	3,344	2,691	3,270	5,182	48,737
Voluntary removal of charities below the minimum registration threshold	42	69	67	29	29	29	31	44	28	8	245	616	1,237
Duplicate registrations and other corrections	219	82	76	76	85	42	62	81	174	152	122	41	1,212
Total	5,480	4,577	8,766	6,101	5,195	4,464	5,177	5,569	5,138	4,576	5,073	7,423	67,539

The removal figures for 2008-09 show an increase over previous years as a result of our work to improve the accuracy of the Register of Charities. A key aspect of our current strategy is the prompt removal of charities that are inactive and with which we can no longer establish contact, and this is reflected in the rising number of charities categorised above as "Ceased to exist or operate for other reasons". In addition, a number of charities have voluntarily been removed from the Register recently because they fall under the £5,000 registration threshold. Smaller charities are not required to register with us; the threshold for registration was an annual income of £1,000 until April 2007 when this threshold was increased to £5,000. Charities whose income now falls under this threshold are entitled to request voluntary removal from the Register, and as one part of our partnership work with umbrella bodies, a number of charities have requested voluntary removal from the Register over the past few months.

I hope this is helpful.

Charities: Government Assistance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what payments her Department has made to charities to tackle socio-economic disadvantage and promote social inclusion in the last 12 months. [299451]

Angela E. Smith: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Charities: Schools

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the policy of the Charity Commission is on undertaking investigations of whether schools with charitable status are promoting the public benefit; and what statutory provisions govern such Charity Commission investigations. [299475]

Angela E. Smith: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Charity Commission: Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many full-time equivalent staff were recruited by the Charity Commission in each year since 1996-97. [299476]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Nick Allaway, dated 11 November, 2009:

In the absence of the Chief Executive, Andrew Hind, and as the Executive Director with responsibility for this area of our work, I have been asked to respond to your written question regarding the number of full-time equivalents recruited to the Charity Commission since 1996.

In the table below, I set out the number of staff recruited in each year since 1998/99. The figures in the table include all staff recruited on either a casual, fixed-term or permanent basis. For clarity, I have also included a column to indicate how many were recruited on a permanent basis in each year and a final figure that represents the Commission's average staffing levels (again, on a full-time equivalent basis), to aid context.

Comparable figures for 1996/97 and 1997/98 are not possible to break down but the total numbers recruited in the calendar years 1996, 1997 and 1998 were 87, 56 and 47 respectively.

Recruitment year	*Total recruited*	*Of which on a permanent basis*	*Average FTE staffing*
1998-99	74.5	34	495
1999-2000	118.8	57.4	533
2000-01	106.4	58.8	551
2001-02	91.6	50.8	562
2002-03	89	67.8	631
2003-04	61.6	39	600
2004-05	83.5	44.3	545
2005-06	28.6	15.9	517
2006-07	64.4	50.7	490
2007-08	37	27	471
2008-09	82.9	63.8	443

The two recent spikes in recruitment (in 2006/07 and 2008/09) were in connection with our modernisation, restructuring and efficiency programmes, which were necessitated by our 2005/06 Strategic Review and the 2007 Spending Review settlement.

I hope this is helpful and if you require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Charity Commission: Surveillance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1081W, on the Charity Commission: surveillance, (1) what the nature of the surveillance undertaken in each of the eight cases since 2004 was; and whether any prosecutions were brought; [299245]

(2) if she will place in the Library a copy of each of the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner's inspection reports of the Charity Commission that are held by the Commission; [299246]

(3) whether the Charity Commission has *(a)* made and *(b)* rejected any requests for authorisations under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 for surveillance of schools with charitable status. [299247]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Nick Allaway, dated 11 November 2009:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, Andrew Hind has been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on the Commission's use of its powers in connection with Surveillance using of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA). Andrew is currently away so I am responding in his absence.

It may assist if I provide some background information on the Commission's use of RIPA to date: The Commission has not made use of RIPA in connection with Directed Surveillance (DS), nor have we used Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS), but have used our powers in connection with obtaining Communications Data under section 21 (4) (c) of RIPA eight times since 2004. The Commission only seeks RIPA authorisations when necessary to assist with our investigations, where it is proportionate to do so, and in cases of the most serious concern.

The Charity Commission has not authorised the use of RIPA for any surveillance, of schools with charitable status or otherwise. In none of the eight occasions where RIPA authority was sought for obtaining communications data by the Commission were the requests rejected.

Since 2004 the Commission has been inspected three times by the Office of the Surveillance Commissioners (OSC) and after each inspection, received a report as RESTRICTED under government protective marking. Unfortunately, therefore, it would not be appropriate to make copies generally available.

As mentioned previously the use of RIPA was to obtain Communications Data. As you may be aware, the Charity Commission is a civil regulator and not a prosecuting authority, but has a clear regulatory function to identify and investigate abuse in charities. Where we identify or are alerted to criminal activity within a charity, we will inform the police or other relevant agencies where this has not already happened, for them to consider further action and prosecute where appropriate. To our knowledge, to date, no prosecutions have been brought directly in relation to the eight RIPA authorisations. We can confirm that some of the charities, subject to use of communications data, are or have been directly or indirectly connected to criminal prosecutions.

I hope this is helpful.

Christmas

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much her Department spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in the last 12 months. [299275]

Angela E. Smith: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Civil Servants

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 24 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 57WS, on Report to Parliament on Civil Service Delegations/Authorisations, what the details of each delegation or authorisation were; and what the purpose was of each. [299321]

Angela E. Smith: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Civil Servants: Foreign Workers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the decision of the British Council to outsource staff to India, whether her Department has issued recent guidance to non-departmental bodies and executive agencies on the outsourcing of Civil Service jobs to areas outside the UK. [299453]

Angela E. Smith: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Civil Servants: Pay

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answers of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1035W, and of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1082-4W, on civil servants: pay, how many employees of the public bodies listed are in receipt of a salary of over *(a)* £100,000, *(b)* £150,000 and *(c)* £200,000. [299330]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Civil Servants: Pensions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the proposed changes to the Civil Service Compensation Scheme will require changes in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation. [299481]

Tessa Jowell: The Minister for the Civil Service amends the Civil Service Compensation Scheme using powers conferred by the Superannuation Act 1972.

Civil Servants: Recruitment

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what requirements there are on the use of open competition to recruit people to Civil Service posts. [299405]

Angela E. Smith: Appointment into the civil service is made on merit on the basis of fair and open competition as laid out in the Civil Service Order in Council 1995 (as amended) and the Diplomatic Service Order in Council 1991 (as amended).

The Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Principles give guidance on how this may be achieved in practice. A copy of the "Order in Council and The Recruitment Principles" is available on the Civil Service Commissioners website

www.civilservicecommissioners.org

and copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Civil Servants: Training

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 422W, on civil servants, if she will place in the Library a copy of the guidance on taking minutes. [299319]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Civil Servants: Vacancies

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 422-3W, on civil servants: vacancies, what the *(a)* job title, *(b)* salary range and *(c)* sponsoring public body was of each job vacancy posted on the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway that was only advertised on the private part of the website in the last three months. [299322]

Angela E. Smith: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Committee on Standards in Public Life

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which 12 constituencies are referred to in paragraph 5.74 of the Twelfth Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, Cm 7724. [299618]

Tessa Jowell: Information contained in its report is a matter for the Committee.

Death: Cancer

Chloe Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* diagnosed cases of and *(b)* deaths from oesophageal cancer there have been in (i) each region and (ii) Norwich North constituency since 1997. [298256]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheston, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many *(a)* diagnosed cases of and *(b)* deaths from oesophageal cancer there have been in (i) each government office region and (ii) Norwich North parliamentary constituency since 1997.

[298256].

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases (incidence) of oesophageal cancer are for the year 2007, while the latest figures for deaths are for the year 2008.

Table 1 provides the number of *(a)* diagnosed cases of oesophageal cancer from 1997 to 2007 and Table 2 provides the number of *(b)* deaths from oesophageal cancer from 1997 to 2008, for (i) each government office region and (ii) Norwich North parliamentary constituency.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of oesophageal cancer[1], by Government Office region and Norwich North parliamentary constituency[2], 1997-2007[3]

Government Office Region	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
North East	309	286	298	316	290	325	346	302	309	341	308
North West	881	914	897	891	1,034	910	988	1,014	1,044	1,023	1,064
Yorkshire and The Humber	547	584	559	582	594	625	638	651	693	660	652
East Midlands	524	538	580	542	597	606	532	561	620	580	657
West Midlands	638	637	608	661	683	703	700	702	705	675	747
East of England	618	608	609	590	566	599	580	609	634	622	691
London	624	634	642	697	631	668	681	584	605	626	623
South East	910	890	1,041	1,031	1,027	1,007	1,066	1,072	1,055	1,007	1,013
South West	689	621	725	735	747	719	747	735	790	819	732
Parliamentary Constituency											
Norwich North	12	[illegible]	12	8	11	10	9	10	15	14	15

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[1] Oesophageal cancer is coded to C15 in the International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision (ICD-10)

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009

[3] Newly diagnosed registrations in each calendar year

Table 2: Number of deaths where oesophageal cancer[1] was the underlying cause of death, by Government Office region and Norwich North parliamentary constituency[2], 1997-2008[3]

Government Office Region	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
North East	299	327	280	310	297	322	318	319	331	324	312	324
North West	892	910	943	928	965	933	936	931	990	990	933	972
Yorkshire and the Humber	532	530	606	558	578	566	595	618	674	600	608	590
East Midlands	481	487	478	520	517	563	524	504	543	570	540	604
West Midlands	670	637	636	626	630	710	694	661	713	701	754	731
East of England	591	584	583	565	596	646	616	633	636	651	635	678
London	570	582	584	557	584	536	639	523	535	534	543	544
South East	837	848	882	926	887	959	962	978	962	956	922	953
South West	572	632	675	683	637	679	712	727	677	740	706	735
Parliamentary Constituency												
Norwich North	8	10	10	12	8	15	15	12	10	17	10	13

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[1] Cause of death for cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 140-208 for the years 1997 to 2000, and the Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97 for the years 2001-2008. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1000W, on Project George, *(a)* how much has been spent and *(b)* what works have been completed in respect of Project George to date. [299243]

Angela E. Smith: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether her Department's information assurance procedures have been subject to an independent audit. [299334]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Email

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 15 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1047W, on "10 Downing Street: e-mail" whether the pilot scheme allowing web-based e-mail accounts to be used on Cabinet Office systems has commenced; what additional charges are introduced by the pilot system; and which users will be authorised to use web-based accounts. [299244]

Angela E. Smith: The new corporate IT system for the Cabinet Office has commenced its pilot. An integral part of the system is a more secure connection to the internet. With this increased security we can allow staff to have access to personal, web-based e-mail. There are restrictions in place to protect Cabinet Office data, including limitations on uploading or downloading between the Cabinet Office network and the internet. No specific charges attach to the use of web-based email.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff in the office of the Minister for the Olympics were employed on the management of freedom of information requests submitted to her Department in each year since 2005; and how much that office spent on the management of such requests in each such year. [299126]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff in the Prime Minister's office were employed on the management of freedom of information requests submitted to her Department in each year since 2005; and how much that office spent on the management of such requests in each such year. [299127]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff in her Department were employed on the management of freedom of information requests submitted to her Department in each year since 2005; and how much her Department spent on the management of such requests in each such year. [299135]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for North-East Hertfordshire of 28 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 652W, on the Heavy Hitter Programme, what the cost of the Heavy Hitter Programme Delivery Director Service has been to date; which IT projects each consultant worked on; and what payments have been made to each consultant for work undertaken in connection with the Heavy Hitter Programme. [299259]

Angela E. Smith: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether her Department plans to undertake legal action to recover losses from the SCOPE IT project. [299408]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the cost of the SCOPE IT project to the public purse has been; how much has been paid to IBM under the project; and how much is planned to be spent on the replacement for SCOPE. [299409]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Land

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office in which of the Duchy of Lancaster's landholding's allotments have been *(a)* sold, *(b)* otherwise disposed and *(c)* developed over in the last 36 months. [299402]

Tessa Jowell: The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster has informed me that the Duchy has not sold, otherwise disposed or developed any of its allotment holdings. To the contrary, the Duchy is in discussion with a local rural parish council in relation to providing land for allotments in Northamptonshire and to incorporating allotment land within a rural affordable housing scheme currently being designed by the Duke of Lancaster Housing Trust in Lancashire.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps the Duchy of Lancaster is taking in response to the September 2009 ruling of the Advertising Standards Authority against the Duchy. [299404]

Tessa Jowell: The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster has noted the decision and the Duchy will not be using the brochure again in its current form. Consultation has continued with the local community, both those for and against the proposal, and further detailed design work is being undertaken for discussion with the local authority and community in due course.

Departmental Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how much her Department has spent on advisory non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1996-97; [299459]

(2) how much her Department has spent on executive non-departmental public bodies in 2008-09. [299460]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in her Department was in the last 12 months. [299598]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with which providers *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agency had contracts to provide postal services in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, (iii) between 1 January 2009 and 1 July 2009 and (iv) since 1 July 2009. [299432]

Angela E. Smith: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation

Departmental Public Consultation

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials, *(c)* representatives of local authorities and *(d)* (i) invited and (ii) non-invited members of the public attended the Building Britain's future roadshow event in Liverpool on 27 July 2009; and what the cost of the event was; [299070]

(2) how many *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials, *(c)* representatives of local authorities and *(d)* (i) invited and (ii) non-invited members of the public attended the Building Britain's Future roadshow event in the North East on 20 July 2009; and what the cost of the event was; [299071]

(3) how many *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials, *(c)* representatives of local authorities and *(d)* (i) invited and (ii) non-invited members of the public attended the Building Britain's Future roadshow event in Leicester on 1 July 2009 ; and what the cost of the event was; [299073]

(4) how many *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials, *(c)* representatives of local authorities and *(d)* (i) invited and (ii) non-invited members of the public attended the Building Britain's Future roadshow event in Yorkshire and the Humber on 27 July 2009; and what the cost of the event was; [299072]

(5) how many *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials, *(c)* representatives of local authorities and *(d)* (i) invited and (ii) non-invited members of the public attended the Building Britain's Future roadshow event in Bristol on 28 July 2009; and what the cost of the event was; [299178]

(6) how many *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials, *(c)* representatives of local authorities and *(d)* (i) invited and (ii) non-invited members of the public attended the Building Britain's Future roadshow event in London on 29 June 2009; and what the cost of the event was; [299176]

(7) how many *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials, *(c)* representatives of local authorities and *(d)* (i) invited and (ii) non-invited members of the public attended the Building Britain's Future roadshow event in Portsmouth on 10 July 2009; and what the cost of the event was; [299177]

(8) how many *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials, *(c)* representatives of local authorities and *(d)* (i) invited and (ii) non-invited members of the public attended the Building Britain's Future roadshow event in Ipswich on 22 July 2009; and what the cost of the event was; [299179]

(9) how many *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials, *(c)* representatives of local authorities and *(d)* (i) invited and (ii) non-invited members of the public attended the Building Britain's Future roadshow event in the West Midlands on 29 July 2009; and what the cost of the event was. [299180]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the *(a)* Building Britain's Future and *(b)* Real Help Now campaign is covered by Crown copyright; and whether permission has been given to non-governmental organisations to reproduce the artwork or branding from each such campaign. [299470]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will place in the Library a copy of the Central Office of Information's White Book produced for the second half of 2009. [299472]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of the statistical datasets collected by her Department are published. [299656]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office does not produce any Official Statistics.

Derek Draper

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham of 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 182W, on Derek Draper, whether Mr Derek Draper has ever held a security pass to No. 10 Downing Street. [299250]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Derek Draper and Charlie Whelan

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 5 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 2315W, on Derek Draper and Charlie Whelan, how many times *(a)* Mr. Derek Draper and *(b)* Mr. Charlie Whelan visited the Downing Street/Cabinet Office complex in the prior 18-month period. [299252]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 5 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 2315W, on Derek Draper and Charlie Whelan, for how long records of visitors to the Downing Street/Cabinet Office complex are retained. [299253]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Disclosure of Information: Criminal Investigation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will place in the Library a copy of the letter from the Cabinet Office's Director of Security and Intelligence *(a)* dated 8 October 2008 sent to SO15 Counter Terrorism Command requesting the assistance of the police into the investigation of Home Office leaks and *(b)* of 29 October 2008 sent to the Deputy Assistant Commissioner Cressida Dick calling for a scoping exercise to be undertaken. [299467]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether her Department plans to issue a formal response to the parts of the Review of the lessons learned from the Metropolitan Police Service's investigation of Home Office leaks by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary that relate to it. [299478]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Employment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were employed in *(a)* Vale of Clwyd constituency and *(b)* each region in each of the last 20 years. [299718]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were employed in *(a)* Vale of Clwyd and *(b)* each region in each of the last 20 years. (299718)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Employment statistics for regions are compiled from the Labour Force Survey.

Table 1 shows the number of persons in employment resident in the Vale of Clwyd parliamentary constituency for the 12 month periods ending in February from 1995 to 2004 from the annual LFS and for the 12 month periods ending December from 2004 to 2008 from the APS, along with the latest estimate for the period ending March 2009. Estimates are not available prior to the 12 month period ending February 1995.

Table 2 shows the number of persons in employment resident in each English Government Office Region, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland for the 3 month period January to March for each year from 1993 to 2009, along with the latest estimate for the period July to September 2009. Estimates are not available prior to 1993 on a consistent basis.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS and LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. A guide to the quality of the estimates is given in both tables.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Persons[1] in employment resident in the Vale of Clwyd parliamentary constituency

12 month period ending	*Number (Thousand)*
February 1995	27
February 1996	24
February 1997	23
February 1998	24
February 1999	25
February 2000	27
February 2001	29
February 2002	28
February 2003	27
February 2004	29
December 2004	30
December 2005	32
December 2006	28
December 2007	30
December 2008	30
March 2009[2]	**30

[1] Persons aged 16 and over. [2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below. *Guide to Quality:*

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key	*Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%)*	*Statistical Robustness*
*	0 = CV<5	Estimates are considered precise.
**	5 = CV <10	Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
***	10 = CV <20	Estimates are considered acceptable.
****	CV ? 20	Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

Source: Annual Population Survey/Annual Labour Force Survey.

Table 2: Persons[1] in employment resident in each English Government office region, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

Number (Thousand, seasonally adjusted)

	East	*East Midlands*	*London*[2]	*North East*	*North West*	*Scotland*
January to March 1993	2,419	1,862	3,009	1,041	2,881	2,210
January to March 1994	2,417	1,835	2,954	1,032	2,882	2,247
January to March 1995	2,453	1,878	3,042	1,023	2,879	2,273
January to March 1996	2,478	1,905	3,087	1,055	2,877	2,237
January to March 1997	2,492	1,946	3,166	1,050	2,959	2,253
January to March 1998	2,552	1,961	3,219	1,060	2,926	2,295
January to March 1999	2,587	1,987	3,371	1,038	2,945	2,284
January to March 2000	2,612	1,997	3,416	1,064	3,020	2,306
January to March 2001	2,698	1,975	3,483	1,066	3,041	2,353
January to March 2002	2,692	2,006	3,505	1,082	3,034	2,338
January to March 2003	2,664	2,044	3,485	1,071	3,106	2,393
January to March 2004	2,756	2,071	3,520	1,117	3,165	2,419
January to March 2005	2,759	2,096	3,550	1,128	3,179	2,461
January to March 2006	2,747	2,149	3,609	1,152	3,187	2,463
January to March 2007	2,768	2,134	3,642	1,151	3,174	2,540
January to March 2008	2,819	2,166	3,729	1,154	3,163	2,543
January to March 2009	2,831	2,151	3,736	1,148	3,137	2,526
July to September 2009[3]	*2,811	*2,148	*3,720	*1,130	*3,116	*2,500

Thousand (Seasonally adjusted)

	South East	*South West*	*Wales*	*West Midlands*	*Yorkshire and The Humber*	*Northern Ireland*
January to March 1994	3,645	2,190	1,163	2,306	2,173	606
January to March 1995	3,668	2,162	1,173	2,340	2,164	619
January to March 1996	3,756	2,192	1,183	2,347	2,192	662
January to March 1997	3,830	2,250	1,210	2,372	2,173	671
January to March 1998	3,882	2,297	1,197	2,410	2,194	682
January to March 1999	3,970	2,332	1,216	2,398	2,217	690
January to March 2000	4,031	2,360	1,220	2,408	2,238	690
January to March 2001	4,034	2,362	1,234	2,417	2,264	696
January to March 2002	4,022	2,392	1,227	2,450	2,282	705
January to March 2003	4,062	2,420	1,299	2,456	2,320	750
January to March 2004	4,040	2,464	1,329	2,457	2,365	718
January to March 2005	4,096	2,480	1,320	2,514	2,400	745
January to March 2006	4,138	2,489	1,323	2,513	2,426	762
January to March 2007	4,138	2,507	1,346	2,475	2,404	783
January to March 2008	4,230	2,564	1,353	2,509	2,475	787

Thousand (Seasonally adjusted)

	South East	*South West*	*Wales*	*West Midlands*	*Yorkshire and The Humber*	*Northern Ireland*
January to March 2009	4,188	2,546	1,330	2,420	2,404	755
July to September 2009[2]	*4,150	*2,493	*1,306	*2,414	*2,399	*751

[1] Persons aged 16 and over. [2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below. *Guide to Quality:*

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key	*Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%)*	*Statistical Robustness*
*	0 = CV<5	Estimates are considered precise.
**	5 = CV <10	Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
***	10 = CV <20	Estimates are considered acceptable.
****	CV ? 20	Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

Source: Labour Force Survey

Government Departments: Correspondence

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what targets *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Government Communication Group have for the time to (i) acknowledge and (ii) provide a substantive reply to external correspondence. [299446]

Angela E. Smith: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Government Departments: Managers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many layers of line management there are *(a)* in her Department and *(b)* on average in all Government departments. [299468]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Government Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance her Department has produced on re-employing former civil servants as *(a)* fee paid staff, *(b)* contractors, *(c)* agency staff and *(d)* consultants. [299411]

Angela E. Smith: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance the Cabinet Secretary has given to Departments on making public appointments in the period before the general election. [299412]

Tessa Jowell: General guidance on public appointments is set out in the Cabinet Office guidance Making and Managing Public Appointments. This is available in the Libraries of the House and on-line at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/work/public-appointments.aspx

On the announcement of a General Election, guidance will be issued on questions of procedure and conduct for civil servants, including on the making of public appointments.

Government Departments: Telephone Services

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Reading West of 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 550W, on Government departments: telephone services, if she will place in the Library a copy of the Cabinet Office survey of different telephone number types used by Government departments and agencies. [299248]

Angela E. Smith: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Lobbying

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what her policy is on the regulation of political lobbyists and the declaration of their client lists; and if she will make a statement. [299785]

Tessa Jowell: The Government's position is as set out in its Response to the Report of the Public Administration Select Committee on Lobbying: Access and influence in Whitehall published on 23 October 2009 (HC 1058).

Lord-Lieutenants

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many Lords Lieutenant in each region there are of each *(a)* sex, *(b)* age group and *(c)* ethnicity; what the average salary is of Lords Lieutenant; and if she will make a statement. [299340]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to my right hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Marketing: Cabinet Office

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much the Prime Minister's Office has spent on advertising in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [299848]

Angela E. Smith: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when she expects to answer Question 289081, on special advisers, tabled by the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge on 20 July 2009. [299309]

Tessa Jowell: This question has been answered today.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) when she plans to respond to question 255507, on public sector jobs, tabled to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 5 February 2009; [299613]

(2) what estimate she has made of the proportion of new jobs created since 1997 which attract salaries paid for out of public funds. [255507]

Angela E. Smith: I apologise for the late response.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked for a further copy of the response to be sent.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what estimate has been made of the proportion of new jobs created since 1997 which attract salaries paid for out of public funds. (255507)

The table appended provides the net change in employment in the public and private sectors between 1997 and 2008. It shows that the increase in public sector employment accounted for 19 per cent of the increase in the total of public and private sector employment over this period.

The Office for National Statistics publishes employment statistics for the public sector from the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey and for the private sector from the Labour Force Survey.

Employment levels vary over time for a number of reasons, including because new jobs are created. Statistics of new jobs created are not available. However, as here, comparisons can be made of overall net changes in employment, within the public and private sectors. These sectors are as defined in the National Accounts and do not exactly match with the number of jobs which attract salaries paid for out of public funds. For example, GPs are not counted in the public sector.

Public and private sector employment

	Not seasonally adjusted; headcount[1]	
	Public sector[2]	*Private sector*[3]
1997 Q2	5,182	21,328
2008 Q2	5,747	23,738
Change (headcount)	565	2,410
Change (percentage)	10.9	11.3

[1] Headcount figures are in thousands.
[2] Source: Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey.
[3] Source: Labour Force Survey.

Ministerial Policy Advisers: Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she has made of the aggregate cash equivalent transfer value of the pension rights of special advisers in each of the last five financial years. [299081]

Tessa Jowell: I have made no such estimates.

Pay

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median full-time wage for (i) private sector and (ii) public sector employees was in (A) 1997 and (B) the most recent period for which figures are available. [299397]

Angela E. Smith: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Privacy: Impact Assessments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether her Department issues guidance to Government departments in respect of the circumstances in which privacy impact assessments are *(a)* required and *(b)* encouraged. [299449]

Angela E. Smith: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Private Detectives

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 873W, on private detectives, whether other Government departments have hired or commissioned individuals from the panel of independent investigators. [299257]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 873W, on private detectives, how much her Department spent on hiring or commissioning individuals from the panel of independent investigators in each of the last five years. [299258]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Public Bodies: Databases

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps her Department is taking to facilitate data sharing among public sector bodies. [299480]

Angela E. Smith: The Ministry of Justice is the lead Department on data sharing. The Cabinet Office supports technical elements of secure data handling and ensures that considerations of Data Sharing informs our work to promote more joined up public services.

Sharing data securely is a requirement of the Data Handling Review, which all public bodies must adhere to.

Public Sector: ICT

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment has been made of the levels of compliance with her Department's guidance on public sector open source software procurement; and what steps are being taken to ensure compliance. [299407]

Angela E. Smith: The Open Source, Open Standards and Re-use Action Plan was published in February 2009 and is Government policy.

The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) is currently developing guidance for the procurement of open source, working with departments and local authorities that have successfully implemented open source applications, to share best practice and effective methods for procurement. The basis of the guidance has been prepared and material based on practical experience is now being sought from industry and government bodies to enhance the content.

The Cabinet Office does not gather centralised data regarding software procurement.

Public Sector: Redundancy

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether her Department has issued recent guidance to Government departments on the termination of public sector worker contracts because of inefficiency. [299454]

Angela E. Smith: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

Public Services Forum

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) on what dates the Public Services Forum has met in the last 12 months; and who the members are of the Forum; [299398]

(2) whether minutes of meetings of the Public Services Forum are taken. [299399]

Tessa Jowell: The Public Services Forum met on the following dates:

11 November 2009
27 July 2009
5 March 2009
3 November 2008

4

There is no fixed membership of the Public Services Forum; the ministerial chair invites employers and trade union representatives in roughly equal numbers to engage in dialogue with the Government on public service workforce issues. Representatives of the Confederation of British Industry, Business Services Association, Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations and the National Council of Voluntary Organisations are also invited to attend some meetings.

Notes are kept of Public Services Forum meetings. Notes of the 5 March 2009 and 27 July 2009 meetings have been placed in the Library of the House and published on the CO website, and notes of each further Public Services Forum meeting will be published on the Cabinet Office Website.

Redundancy: Payments

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance the Cabinet Office issues on *(a)* public sector redundancy payments and *(b)* whether previous public sector employment should be rolled over when calculating redundancy payments. [290040]

Tessa Jowell: The Cabinet Office is responsible for compensation terms payable on redundancy to civil servants. I refer the hon. member to the answer given in the other place to the noble Lord, Lord Laird, on 3 March, *Official Report*, column WA 134-35. The policy on compensation payable to other public sector employees is set by the appropriate Government departments.

Unemployment: Young People

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the rate of long-term youth unemployment was in *(a)* Vale of Clwyd and *(b)* each region in each of the last 20 years. [297703]

Angela E. Smith: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. member in the time available before Prorogation.

Voluntary Work: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment her Department has made of levels of volunteering among those aged *(a)* under 18 years, *(b)* between 18 and 30 years, *(c)* between 30 and 50 years and *(d)* over 50 years in North East Milton Keynes constituency in each of the last five years. [299651]

Angela E. Smith: Data on the level of volunteering at constituency level are not available. The smallest level that data on volunteering are collected by central Government is at county council, metropolitan district council, London borough and unitary authority level. These data were collected for the first time in 2008 through the Place Survey, a survey which provides information on people's perceptions of their local area and the local services they receive. The data from the Place Survey indicate that in 2008 22.8 per cent. of the respondents to the Place Survey distributed by Milton Keynes council had volunteered at least once a month in the last 12 months. The Place Survey data are available on the Communities and Local Government website.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Council Tax Benefit

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on council tax benefit in each region in each year since 1997. [297378]

Helen Goodman: The available information is in the tables.

Council Tax Benefit expenditure since 1997, in £ millions, cash terms

Region	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-00*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
North East	139	144	152	155	161	171	188	201	210	216	221
North West	367	374	381	383	394	401	436	469	491	507	517
Yorkshire and the Humber	205	213	217	222	232	242	260	293	310	323	327

Council Tax Benefit expenditure since 1997, in £ millions, cash terms

Region	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-00*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
East Midlands	139	147	154	160	165	183	202	226	240	253	259
West Midlands	230	233	244	253	267	282	315	336	355	374	384
East of England	161	167	176	182	191	209	250	283	304	322	335
London	399	384	380	389	415	435	529	599	634	668	679
South East	216	221	230	235	247	268	327	373	403	426	440
South West	158	163	169	173	179	193	231	260	281	298	307
Wales	94	103	108	119	124	131	142	160	176	184	189
Scotland	287	303	307	310	316	322	337	358	368	373	366
Great Britain	2,395	2,452	2,518	2,580	2,690	2,837	3,225	3,558	3,774	3,943	4,023

Council Tax Benefit expenditure since 1997, in £ millions, 2009-10 prices

Region	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-00*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
North East	182	185	192	193	196	202	215	224	230	230	229
North West	482	481	480	476	479	473	500	523	532	539	535
Yorkshire and the Humber	269	274	273	276	282	285	308	327	339	344	339
East Midlands	182	189	194	199	201	216	231	252	262	269	268
West Midlands	302	299	307	315	325	332	361	375	388	398	398
East of England	211	215	222	226	232	246	286	316	332	343	347
London	524	493	479	484	505	513	606	668	693	711	703
South East	283	284	290	292	301	316	375	416	441	453	456
South West	207	209	213	215	218	227	265	290	307	317	318
Wales	123	132	136	148	151	154	163	178	192	196	196
Scotland	377	389	387	386	384	380	386	399	402	397	379
Great Britain	3,143	3,150	3,173	3,209	3,273	3,344	3,696	3,969	4,126	4,196	4,165

Notes:

[1]. Figures are rounded to the nearest million. Columns may not sum to Great Britain totals due to this rounding.

[2]. Figures include all Council Tax Benefit, whether funded by central Government or by local authorities.

[3]. Figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are provisional.

[4]. Figures have been converted to 2009-10 prices using GDP Deflators from HM Treasury which are consistent with the 2009 Budget Report.

[5]. These figures are available on the DWP website at: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/hbctb_exp.xls

Source:

Local Authority subsidy returns

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether her Department's information assurance procedures have been subject to an independent audit. [299385]

Jim Knight: The Department's information assurance procedures have been independently assessed in accordance with the HMG Information Assurance Maturity Model and the associated Framework in March 2009. The assessment was undertaken by the Communications-Electronic Security Group.

Departmental Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* energy rating and *(b)* energy band of each building occupied by her Department and its agencies was in each year for which figures are available. [299314]

Jim Knight: Display Energy Certificates (DECs) are the means by which Government have implemented the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive in England and Wales. From October 2008, buildings with a total useful floor area of over 1000m^2 that are occupied by a public authority and by institutions providing a public service to a large number of persons must display an annually updated DEC showing an Operational Rating, in a prominent place clearly visible to the public.

In Scotland, the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive has been enacted differently. From 4 January 2009, public authorities and institutions occupying buildings with a total useful floor area over 1,000m^2 must display in an area clearly visible to the public an Energy

Performance Certificate (EPC) showing the building's asset rating. These are valid for a period of 10 years.

A table showing the performance for the past two years of those DWP buildings in England and Wales that require a DEC is as follows, together with similar information relating to DWP buildings in Scotland where an EPC is required.

		2008 DEC details		*2009 DEC details*	
Business identifier	*Premises name*	*Operational rating*	*Operational rating number*	*Operational rating*	*Operational rating number*
Jobcentre Plus	Blyth Bridge House	B	40	B	38
Jobcentre Plus	Garston Chessington House	B	37	B	38
Jobcentre Plus	Hemsworth Low Hall	B	27	B	34
Jobcentre Plus	Mulberry House Goole	B	50	B	48
Jobcentre Plus	Water Court Nottingham	B	46	B	48
Jobcentre Plus	Shrewsbury Whitehall	C	58	B	42
Jobcentre Plus	High Street Waltham Cross	B	31	B	26
Jobcentre Plus	Porthmadog Thedford House	B	50	B	45
Jobcentre Plus	Guildford Leys House	A	25	B	32
PDCS	Bristol Flowers Hill	B	42	B	40
Jobcentre Plus	Barnstaple Princess House	B	50	B	45
Jobcentre Plus	Somerset Hall	B	48	B	31
Jobcentre Plus	Peterlee Hatfield House	D	89	C	67
Jobcentre Plus	Eston Hadrian House	C	69	C	63
Jobcentre Plus	Fountain House Morpeth	C	69	C	63
Jobcentre Plus	Daryl House Stockton-On-Tees	C	69	C	63
Jobcentre Plus	Church View House	C	57	C	53
Jobcentre Plus	Southport Eastbank House	C	65	C	58
Jobcentre Plus	Wallasey Dominic House	D	83	C	70
Jobcentre Plus	Brunswick House Birkenhead	C	58	C	57
Jobcentre Plus	Stockport Heron House	D	78	C	65
Jobcentre Plus	Wigan Mesnes House	C	60	C	51
Jobcentre Plus	Oldham Phoenix House	C	73	C	68
Jobcentre Plus	Leigh Roydale House	C	70	C	67
Jobcentre Plus	Manchester Graeme House	D	78	C	73
Jobcentre Plus	Wigan Brocol House	D	94	C	73
Jobcentre Plus	Bolton Elizabeth House	C	71	C	67
Jobcentre Plus	Lytham Westmorland House	C	64	C	59
Jobcentre Plus	Workington Simon House	C	62	C	61
Jobcentre Plus	Barrow Phoenix House	D	78	C	71
Jobcentre Plus	Lancaster Mitre House	C	70	C	65
Jobcentre Plus	Arndale House Stretford	G Default	200	C	71
Jobcentre Plus	Oldham Road Newton Heath	C	69	C	74
Jobcentre Plus	Scunthorpe Crown Buildings	C	59	C	63
Jobcentre Plus	Keighley Worth House	C	62	C	61
Jobcentre Plus	Harrogate Berkeley House	D	80	C	67
Jobcentre Plus	Northallerton Elder House	C	59	C	62
Jobcentre Plus	York Monkgate	C	72	C	65
Jobcentre Plus	Skipton Cavendish House	C	73	C	67
Jobcentre Plus	Hull Crown House	C	75	C	75
Jobcentre Plus	Bridlington Quay Road	D	86	C	66
Jobcentre Plus	Bradford Westfield House	D	87	C	73
Jobcentre Plus	Horton Street Halifax	C	64	C	57
Jobcentre Plus	Lancer Court Sheffield	D	79	C	58
Jobcentre Plus	Chantry House Rotherham	C	75	C	73
Jobcentre Plus	Loughborough Lemyngton Street	C	75	C	67
Jobcentre Plus	Normanton Road Derby	D	84	C	74
Jobcentre Plus	Newcastle-U-Lyme High Street	C	62	C	60
Jobcentre Plus	Longton Strand House	D	90	C	72
Jobcentre Plus	Leamington Spa Brandon House	C	68	C	60
Jobcentre Plus	Rugby Kingsforth House	C	55	C	56
Jobcentre Plus	Nuneaton Mill House	C	74	C	64
Jobcentre Plus	Hereford St Nicholas House	G Default	200	C	66
Jobcentre Plus	Birmingham Five Ways House	C	58	C	57
Jobcentre Plus	Burton-upon-Trent Crown Building	C	71	C	72
Jobcentre Plus	Mutual House Kings Heath	D	85	C	75
Jobcentre Plus	Park House Solihull	B	36	C	62

		2008 DEC details		2009 DEC details	
Business identifier	*Premises name*	*Operational rating*	*Operational rating number*	*Operational rating*	*Operational rating number*
Jobcentre Plus	Regent House Basildon	C	72	C	71
Jobcentre Plus	Ebbw Vale Civic Centre	C	64	C	63
Jobcentre Plus	Tonypandy Thistle House	C	71	C	68
Jobcentre Plus	Newtown Afon House	C	65	C	63
PDCS	Cardiff Government Buildings	D	79	C	74
Jobcentre Plus	Market Street Bridgend	D	80	C	56
Jobcentre Plus	High Street Swansea	C	75	C	75
Jobcentre Plus	Llanelli Job Centre	C	75	C	67
Jobcentre Plus	Hove Boundary House	C	65	C	68
Jobcentre Plus	Folkestone Palting House	C	71	C	72
Jobcentre Plus	St. Leonards on Sea Heron House	C	74	C	68
Jobcentre Plus	Eastbourne St. Annes House	C	68	C	61
Jobcentre Plus	Southampton St. Cross House	C	73	C	74
Jobcentre Plus	Andover Government Offices	C	67	C	57
Jobcentre Plus	Northgate House Canterbury	D	77	C	70
Jobcentre Plus	Capital House Eastleigh	C	58	C	61
Jobcentre Plus	London Fulham Waterford House	C	61	C	62
Jobcentre Plus	LDN Hoxton Drysdale Street	D	77	C	71
Jobcentre Plus	LDN Bloomsbury Tavis House	D	82	C	74
Jobcentre Plus	High Street Harlesden London	E	109	C	60
Jobcentre Plus	North Street Hornchurch	C	73	C	74
Jobcentre Plus	Dartmouth Road Forest Hill	C	70	C	63
Jobcentre Plus	Swindon Spring Gardens	D	78	C	74
Jobcentre Plus	Salisbury Summerlock House	C	71	C	73
Jobcentre Plus	Truro Lemon Quay House	C	63	C	59
Jobcentre Plus	Cam House Kingswood Bristol	C	72	C	68
Jobcentre Plus	Regent House , Weston Super Mare	D	77	C	69
Jobcentre Plus	Hayward House Cheltenham	C	66	C	73
Jobcentre Plus	Cyppa Court Chippenham	C	63	C	73
Jobcentre Plus	Darlington Bondgate House	D	96	D	89
Jobcentre Plus	Houghton-le-Spring Broadway House	D	81	D	82
Jobcentre Plus	Wallsend Hadrian House	D	80	D	80
Jobcentre Plus	Hartlepool Ward Jackson House	D	92	D	84
Jobcentre Plus	Ashington Riverdale House	D	100	D	94
Jobcentre Plus	Elvet House Durham	D	90	D	90
Jobcentre Plus	Condercum House Newcastle-Upon-Tyne	D	79	D	89
Jobcentre Plus	North Shields Camden Street	C	73	D	76
Jobcentre Plus	Chapter Row South Shields	C	75	D	79
Jobcentre Plus	Shildon House Gateshead	D	87	D	84
Jobcentre Plus	St Helens Gregson House	D	83	D	88
Jobcentre Plus	Huyton Edendale House	D	96	D	94
Jobcentre Plus	Bootle Linacre House	E	113	D	95
Jobcentre Plus	Liverpool Hougoumont House	D	76	D	85
PDCS	Bootle St Martin's House	E	103	D	98
Jobcentre Plus	Chester Chantry House	D	83	D	82
Jobcentre Plus	Manchester Othen House	D	80	D	84
Jobcentre Plus	Manchester Wilmslow Road	E	106	D	91
Jobcentre Plus	Manchester Clarence Road	D	91	D	94
Jobcentre Plus	Manchester Simon House	D	83	D	78
Jobcentre Plus	Manchester Baskerville House	D	90	D	82
Jobcentre Plus	Rochdale Newgate House	D	93	D	88
Jobcentre Plus	Blackburn Orchard House	D	79	D	80
Jobcentre Plus	Burnley Brun House	D	79	D	76
Jobcentre Plus	Carlisle Rufus House	D	84	D	77
Jobcentre Plus	Blackhorse Street Bolton	D	95	D	96
Jobcentre Plus	Queen Street Blackpool	E	108	D	76
Jobcentre Plus	St. Chads Drive Kirkby	D	82	D	78
Jobcentre Plus	Cornwall Street Openshaw	E	113	D	95
Jobcentre Plus	Danesmoor Court Didsbury	D	91	D	[illegible]
Jobcentre Plus	Tweedale House Oldham	E	101	D	99
Jobcentre Plus	Gateway House Preston	E	114	D	95
Jobcentre Plus	Halifax Crossfield House	D	94	D	97
Jobcentre Plus	Hull Britannia House	E	104	D	97

		2008 DEC details		*2009 DEC details*	
Business identifier	*Premises name*	*Operational rating*	*Operational rating number*	*Operational rating*	*Operational rating number*
Jobcentre Plus	Leeds Century House	D	95	D	84
Jobcentre Plus	Leeds Park Place	D	84	D	79
Jobcentre Plus	Leeds Southern House	D	83	D	83
PDCS	Leeds Government Buildings	C	75	D	80
Jobcentre Plus	Mexborough Crown Buildings	D	98	D	97
Jobcentre Plus	Doncaster Crossgate House	D	85	D	83
Jobcentre Plus	Dewsbury Crown Buildings	D	80	D	81
Jobcentre Plus	Sheffield Eastern Avenue	E	111	D	100
Jobcentre Plus	Eastbrook Court Bradford	D	97	D	90
Jobcentre Plus	Bridge House Grimsby	D	86	D	79
Jobcentre Plus	Eastgate Leeds	D	99	D	92
Jobcentre Plus	Bailey Court Sheffield	D	95	D	83
Jobcentre Plus	Cooper House Barnsley	D	77	D	76
Jobcentre Plus	Wakefield Crowther House	D	81	D	82
Jobcentre Plus	Northampton Gladstone Road East	C	72	D	83
Jobcentre Plus	Leicester Wellington Street	D	95	D	91
Jobcentre Plus	Boston Crown Building	D	85	D	79
Jobcentre Plus	Nottingham Station Street	D	86	D	86
Jobcentre Plus	Lincoln Orchard Street	D	91	D	96
Jobcentre Plus	Mansfield Hill House	D	98	D	90
Jobcentre Plus	Grantham Crown House	D	87	D	83
Jobcentre Plus	Ilkeston Crown Buildings	D	81	D	85
Jobcentre Plus	Derby Forester House	D	87	D	92
Jobcentre Plus	Chesterfield Beetwell House	D	88	D	84
Jobcentre Plus	Skegness Government Buildings	E	101	D	96
Jobcentre Plus	Sovereign House Bulwell	D	85	D	82
Jobcentre Plus	Markham House Chesterfield	D	97	D	81
Jobcentre Plus	Birmingham Soho Road	D	93	D	92
Jobcentre Plus	Cannock Beecroft Road	E	108	D	100
Jobcentre Plus	Scotland House Stourbridge	D	80	D	76
Jobcentre Plus	Wolverhampton Molineux House	D	81	D	82
Jobcentre Plus	Meridian House Perry Barr	D	91	D	99
Jobcentre Plus	Coventry Road Yardley	D	77	D	77
Jobcentre Plus	1300 Bristol Road South Northfield	D	88	D	81
Jobcentre Plus	Chelmsley Wood Birmingham	E	105	D	95
Jobcentre Plus	High Street Smethwick	D	90	D	80
Jobcentre Plus	Christchurch House West Bromwich	D	88	D	84
Jobcentre Plus	Alexander House Dudley	D	94	D	92
Jobcentre Plus	Telford House Telford	D	76	D	76
Jobcentre Plus	Chapel Court Wolverhampton	D	90	D	86
Jobcentre Plus	High Street Bilston	D	96	D	91
Jobcentre Plus	Bury St Edmunds St Andrews House	D	83	D	81
Jobcentre Plus	Cambridge Henry Giles House	D	81	D	77
Jobcentre Plus	Lowestoft Rishton House	D	88	D	93
Jobcentre Plus	Peterborough Clifton House	D	95	D	97
Jobcentre Plus	Harlow Beaufort House	D	81	D	78
Jobcentre Plus	Ipswich St Felix House	D	82	D	78
Jobcentre Plus	Clacton Station Road	D	90	D	82
Jobcentre Plus	Colchester Crown Building	D	81	D	91
Jobcentre Plus	Bedford Wyvern House	D	96	D	86
Jobcentre Plus	St. Albans Beauver House	F	142	D	76
Jobcentre Plus	Waterhouse Street Hemel Hempstead	D	85	D	85
Jobcentre Plus	Lovell House Kings Lynn	E	102	D	100
Jobcentre Plus	Derby Road Grays	D	89	D	87
Jobcentre Plus	Stevenage Marshgate Chambers	D	96	D	88
Jobcentre Plus	Llanelli Crown Buildings	D	96	D	99
Jobcentre Plus	Aberystwyth Crown Buildings	D	87	D	81
Jobcentre Plus	Morriston Oldway House	D	83	D	77
Jobcentre Plus	Aberdare Crown Building	D	81	D	77
Jobcentre Plus	Merthyr Tydfil Abermorlais	D	100	D	98
Jobcentre Plus	Blackwood Newbridge House	G	166	D	92
Jobcentre Plus	Pontypridd Oldway House	D	84	D	87
Jobcentre Plus	Colwyn Bay Coed Pella Road	D	78	D	79

		2008 DEC details		*2009 DEC details*	
Business identifier	*Premises name*	*Operational rating*	*Operational rating number*	*Operational rating*	*Operational rating number*
Jobcentre Plus	Wrexham Grosvenor Road	D	98	D	90
Jobcentre Plus	Cardiff Cowbridge Road East	D	80	D	81
Jobcentre Plus	Caradog House Cardiff	D	77	D	78
Jobcentre Plus	1 Windsor Road Neath	D	90	D	93
Jobcentre Plus	Sittingbourne Roman House	D	78	D	78
Jobcentre Plus	Fareham Crown Office	C	73	D	79
Jobcentre Plus	Isle of Wight Broadlands House	D	76	D	78
Jobcentre Plus	Bognor Regis BO Gloucester House	D	79	D	78
Jobcentre Plus	Aldershot South Western House	D	92	D	76
Jobcentre Plus	Banbury Southam Road	C	71	D	78
Jobcentre Plus	Slough Upton Lodge	D	96	D	94
Jobcentre Plus	High Wycombe Aria House	E	108	D	93
Jobcentre Plus	Wynnstay House Cosham	D	96	D	91
Jobcentre Plus	Gresham House Crawley	D	100	D	99
Jobcentre Plus	Romford Crown House	E	103	D	100
Jobcentre Plus	LDN Wood Green Granta House	D	82	D	99
Jobcentre Plus	LDN Balham Irene House	D	88	D	87
Jobcentre Plus	LDN Hendon Finchley Lane	E	114	D	97
Jobcentre Plus	LDN Leytonstone Lemna Road	D	87	D	76
Jobcentre Plus	Catford Rushey Green	D	96	D	96
Jobcentre Plus	LDN Poplar Dod Street	D	104	D	97
Jobcentre Plus	LDN Walthamstow Danson House	D	86	D	77
Jobcentre Plus	LDN Battersea Kennington Park	D	88	D	96
Jobcentre Plus	LDN Streatham Crown House	E	106	D	100
Jobcentre Plus	Dingwall Road Croydon	E	115	D	96
Jobcentre Plus	Aldermans Hill Palmers Green	E	108	D	94
Jobcentre Plus	Cambridge Avenue Kilburn	D	96	D	98
Jobcentre Plus	Mare Street Hackney	E	102	D	98
Jobcentre Plus	Chequers Lane Dagenham	D	94	D	85
Jobcentre Plus	Bentley Road Dalston London	E	105	D	98
Jobcentre Plus	Hermes House Brixton	D	83	D	85
Jobcentre Plus	Clapham Road London	F	130	D	96
Jobcentre Plus	London Road Twickenham	D	79	D	77
Jobcentre Plus	Acton Job Centre	D	83	D	77
Jobcentre Plus	Gloucester Cedar House	D	91	D	78
Jobcentre Plus	Taunton Brendon House	D	85	D	84
Jobcentre Plus	Exeter Clarendon House	D	90	D	91
Jobcentre Plus	Yeovil Federated House	D	76	D	79
Jobcentre Plus	Bridgwater Hanover House	D	86	D	94
Jobcentre Plus	Penzance Branwell House	C	62	D	76
Jobcentre Plus	Weymouth Westwey House	D	76	D	76
Jobcentre Plus	Bristol Eagle House	D	91	D	86
Jobcentre Plus	St. Levan Road Devonport	D	79	D	76
Jobcentre Plus	Hexham St Andrews House	E	108	E	106
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	Bishop Auckland Vinovium House	D	97	E	102
Jobcentre Plus	No 1 Cathedral Square	E	103	E	103
Jobcentre Plus	Liverpool Kinglake House	E	114	E	114
Jobcentre Plus	Liverpool Childwall Valley Road	D	100	E	102
Jobcentre Plus	Widnes Kingsway House	E	110	E	101
Jobcentre Plus	Hyde Beech House	E	114	E	123
PDCS	Blackpool Warbreck House	E	104	E	102
Jobcentre Plus	Preston Barry House	E	110	E	108
Jobcentre Plus	Heron House Morecambe	E	108	E	103
Jobcentre Plus	Tyldsley Road Blackpool	E	114	E	110
Jobcentre Plus	Park House Bootle	D	88	E	101
Jobcentre Plus	Nolan House Warrington	E	113	E	104
Jobcentre Plus	Grimsby Crown House	E	113	E	107
Jobcentre Plus	Leeds Quarry House	E	107	E	101
Jobcentre Plus	Castle House Huddersfield	E	105	E	109
Jobcentre Plus	Market Place Hull	D	100	E	123
Jobcentre Plus	Northampton Frances House	E	104	E	104
Jobcentre Plus	Nottingham Upper Parliament Street	E	113	E	113

		2008 DEC details		2009 DEC details	
Business identifier	*Premises name*	*Operational rating*	*Operational rating number*	*Operational rating*	*Operational rating number*
Jobcentre Plus	New Walk Leicester	E	103	E	104
Jobcentre Plus	Birmingham City Jobcentre Plus	E	114	E	112
Jobcentre Plus	Heynesfield House Sparkhill	D	83	E	115
Jobcentre Plus	King Edward Court Sutton Coldfield	D	76	E	106
Jobcentre Plus	Washwood Heath Road Washwood Heath	E	105	E	114
Jobcentre Plus	Torrington Avenue - Block B	D	98	E	105
Jobcentre Plus	Bridle Court Walsall	E	114	E	108
Jobcentre Plus	Selly Oak New Development	F	136	E	118
Jobcentre Plus	Luton Cheviot House	E	104	E	103
Jobcentre Plus	Watford Exchange House	D	93	E	102
Jobcentre Plus	The Old Post House Braintree	E	107	E	123
Jobcentre Plus	Greytown House Colchester	E	115	E	110
Jobcentre Plus	Bridgend Crown Buildings	E	110	E	101
Jobcentre Plus	Swansea Grove House	C	67	E	106
Jobcentre Plus	Canterbury Nutwood House	F	129	E	119
Jobcentre Plus	Brighton Windsor House	E	106	E	104
Jobcentre Plus	Gravesend The Grove	E	101	E	108
Jobcentre Plus	Lewes Medwyn House	E	121	E	106
Jobcentre Plus	Winchester Citygate	D	90	E	102
Jobcentre Plus	Worthing Crown Building	E	122	E	115
Jobcentre Plus	St Georges House	E	107	E	113
Jobcentre Plus	Redhill Jobcentre	G	154	E	120
Jobcentre Plus	Maidstone County Gate 1	E	113	E	116
Jobcentre Plus	Bexleyheath Westminster House	E	103	E	101
Jobcentre Plus	Kingston Brook Street	E	109	E	107
Jobcentre Plus	Orpington The Walnuts	E	114	E	109
Jobcentre Plus	Barking Phoenix House	F	126	E	113
Jobcentre Plus	LDN Brixton Stockwell Road	F	126	E	104
Jobcentre Plus	LDN Tottenham High Road 640-656	F	144	E	113
Jobcentre Plus	LDN Highgate Elthorne Road	D	96	E	116
Jobcentre Plus	LDN Wandsworth Arndale Centre	E	125	E	110
Jobcentre Plus	LDN Caxton House	D	101	E	116
Jobcentre Plus	Balaam Street Plaistow	E	106	E	108
Jobcentre Plus	Tramway Avenue Stratford	E	124	E	106
Jobcentre Plus	Westbury Road Walthamstow	E	101	E	103
Jobcentre Plus	Medina Road Finsbury Park	E	121	E	115
Jobcentre Plus	Lisson Grove London	E	121	E	117
Jobcentre Plus	Chadwick Street Westminster	E	111	E	119
Jobcentre Plus	The Broadway Southall	D	91	E	116
Jobcentre Plus	Regal House Torquay	D	79	E	113
Jobcentre Plus	Middlesbrough James Cook House	E	121	F	126
Jobcentre Plus	John Street Sunderland	G	203	F	131
Jobcentre Plus	Liverpool High Park House (Toxteth)	F	130	F	136
Jobcentre Plus	Sheffield Hartshead Square	G	159	F	148
Jobcentre Plus	Wellingborough Lothersdale	F	128	F	135
Jobcentre Plus	Charles Street Leicester	E	120	F	127
Jobcentre Plus	Coventry Cofa Court	F	144	F	150
Jobcentre Plus	Bayard House Walsall	F	142	F	130
Jobcentre Plus	Hastings Ashdown House	E	125	F	132
Jobcentre Plus	Gloucester Green Oxford	F	134	F	129
Jobcentre Plus	Adelphi House Reading	E	122	F	127
Jobcentre Plus	LDN Camden Tresco House	F	146	F	146
Jobcentre Plus	Barnet Raydean House	E	113	F	129
Jobcentre Plus	LDN Whitechapel Commercial Road	G	176	F	137
Jobcentre Plus	Elmfield Road Bromley	F	149	F	148
Jobcentre Plus	Settles Street Stepney	G	199	F	139
Jobcentre Plus	34 Windmill Hill Enfield	G Default	200	F	127
Jobcentre Plus	Barnsbury Road Kings Cross	G	163	F	146
Jobcentre Plus	Uxbridge Road London	E	120	F	131
Jobcentre Plus	Woolwich Nelson House	F	148	F	127
Jobcentre Plus	LDN Stratford Jubilee House	G	164	G	151
Jobcentre Plus	LDN Peckham Collyer Court	G	204	G	204
Jobcentre Plus	St Johns Road Wembley	F	141	G	157

		2008 DEC details		*2009 DEC details*	
Business identifier	*Premises name*	*Operational rating*	*Operational rating number*	*Operational rating*	*Operational rating number*
Jobcentre Plus	Chatham The Brook	D	94	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	JCP Gwent Square	E	109	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Uxbridge Road Shepherds Bush	F	149	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Staines Jobcentre Plus	G	165	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Pennine House Washington	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Crewe Wellington House	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Skelmersdale Wellmar House	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Craven House Barrow-In-Furness	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Fleece Street Rochdale	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Lee-Moran House	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Runcorn Job Centre Plus	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Cavendish Court	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Centurion House Castleford	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Liquorice Way Pontefract	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Lincoln Viking House	G Default	200	[illegible] results	
Jobcentre Plus	Leicester Rutland Centre DO002	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	St Peters House Derby	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Kidderminster Crown House	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Lichfield Guardian House	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Halesowen Maybrook House	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Redditch St Stephens House	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Centennial House Birmingham	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Princess House Shrewsbury	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Haswell House	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Kiln House	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Gemini Centre	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Charles Street Cardiff	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Charles Street Newport	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Ramsgate Queens House	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Ashford International House	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Basingstoke Winchester Road	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Havant Elmleigh Road	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Aylesbury Sunley House	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Bracknell Fitzwilliam House	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	The Carriage House Tunbridge Wells	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Mill House Jobcentre	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Goldsworth Road Woking	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	LDN Canning Town Kilner House	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Harrow Kings House	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Edgware Middlesex House	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Hounslow Montague Road	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	LDN Neasden Chancel House	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Camden High Street London	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	63-67 Newington Causeway London	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	High Street Peckham	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	67 Upper Tooting Road Tooting London	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Old Town Clapham	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	22 Glenthorne Road Hammersmith London	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	North Kensington JCP - DIE	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Prian House, Redruth	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Sherborne House, Newton Abbot	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Old Town Market Poole	G Default	200	Awaiting results	

		2008 DEC details		2009 DEC details	
Business identifier	*Premises name*	*Operational rating*	*Operational rating number*	*Operational rating*	*Operational rating number*
Jobcentre Plus	Plymouth Old Tree Court	G Default	200	Awaiting results	
Jobcentre Plus	Bournemouth Tamarisk House	G Default	200	Awaiting results	

DWP buildings in Scotland

Premises name	*Operational rating*	*Operational rating number*	
Airbles Road	E	78	Motherwell, Lanarkshire, ML1 3FA
31-33 Whitburn Road	G	118	Bathgate, West Lothian, EH48 1HG
Driver & Vehicle Licensing Agency	E	74	Glasgow, G2 6TT
Units 15, 16A & 16B Almondvale Centre,	F+	89	Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 6NQ
13 Dockhead Street	E	77	Saltcoats, Ayrshire, KA21 5EZ
779/787 Govan Road	E+	65	Glasgow, G51 3JY
Shandwick Square Shopping Centre	F+	88	Glasgow, G34 9DR
49a High Street	D	54	Paisley, Renfrewshire, PA1 2AN
20 Benalder Street	D+	47	Glasgow, G11 6QN
105 Dalrymple Street	D	59	Greenock, Renfrewshire, PA15 1DU
10 South Avenue	D+	46	Glasgow, Dunbartonshire, G81 2LF
245 Kilbowie Road	D	50	Clydebank, Dunbartonshire, G81 2JN
Commercial Road	C+	36	Lerwick, Shetland Islands, ZE1 0LQ
1 Westside Plaza	E	78	Edinburgh, City of Edinburgh, EH14 2SP
20 High Riggs	E	76	Edinburgh, City of Edinburgh, EH3 7HU
10b Wellside Place	F	100	Falkirk, FK1 5SE
96 Milton Street	D+	51	Glasgow, G4 0DX
Roxburgh Street	E	72	Galashiels, TD1 1TD
600 Windmillhill Street	D+	50	Motherwell, Lanarkshire, ML1 2HN
417 Main Street	D	56	Bellshill, Lanarkshire, ML4 1HU
199 Commercial Street	F+	90	Edinburgh, EH6 6QP
John Street	E	80	Ayr, KA8 0BX
12 Woodstock Street/Grange Street	F+	90	Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, KA1 2BN
2 St Ninians Road	E+	61	Stirling, FK8 2HF
Robertson Street	C+	35	Glasgow, Lanarkshire, G2 8SP
134 Wellington Street	D	57	Glasgow, G2 2XL
3 Gellatly Street	G	102	Dundee, Angus DD1 3DX
Wellgate Centre	D	58	Dundee, City of Dundee, DD1 2DB
29 Cadogan Street	D	56	Glasgow, G2 7AB
1460/1470 Maryhill Road	E+	63	Glasgow, G20 9DH
Norman House The Forge	E+	67	Glasgow, City of Glasgow, G31 5NW
955 Shettleston Road	D+	50	Glasgow, G32 7NY
Greyfriars House	D	58	Aberdeen, AB9 2ZU
348 - 382 Argyle Street	D+	49	Glasgow, Lanarkshire, G2 8LX
21 Herschell Street Anniesland[1]	F+	85	G13 1HT
Foundry Street	E	80	Dunfermline, Fife, KY12 9DF
20 York Street	E+	66	Glasgow, Lanarkshire, G2 8JH
1 Almada Street	D	57	Hamilton, ML3 0EH
67-75 Irish Street	E+	70	Dumfries, Dumfries & Galloway, DG1 2PQ
8 Coustonholm Road	E	74	Glasgow, G43 1SS
17 Girnigoe Street	E	78	Wick, Caithness, KW1 4HL
9 Muslin Street	D+	46	Glasgow, G40 4AZ
200 Atlas Road/ Wellfield Street	F+	82	Glasgow, G21 4DL
6 Scarlow Street	G	105	PA14 5EY
1-7 Thistle Street And 11 Chapel Street	E+	74	Aberdeen, AB10 1EF
12-14 Dee Street	D	56	Aberdeen, City of Aberdeen, AB11 6DR
13-21 Trinity Road	F+	89	Élgin, IV30 1UE

[1] Scottish certificates valid 10 years.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what IT systems have been in development for use within her Department in the last five years; what the reason for the development of each system was; how much has been spent on the development of each system; and which systems have been subsequently (i) implemented, (ii) terminated prior to implementation and (iii) terminated following implementation. [290410]

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which IT systems have been in development for use within her Department in the last three years; what the cost was of each such system; which such systems have been *(a)* implemented, *(b)* not implemented and *(c)* implemented and subsequently terminated. [295583]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 26 October 2009]:* The information is not available in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department for Work and Pensions has a large change portfolio of projects and programmes to implement the Government's Welfare and Pensions reform agenda, to transact business more efficiently and improve customer service. It is not possible to separate out the IT elements of these projects.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalent officials in her Department process claim forms for *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* attendance allowance, *(c)* carer's allowance, *(d)* incapacity benefit and *(e)* employment and support allowance; and how many such forms were processed on average each working day for each benefit in each of the last five years. [295024]

Jonathan Shaw: Information about the number of full-time equivalent officials in the Department who process claim forms for disability living allowance, attendance allowance and carer's allowance, and about the number of forms processed on average for each benefit on each working day, is not currently available.

The available information about the number of full-time equivalent staff who process claim forms for incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance is in the table.

Average number of full-time equivalent officials: 2008-2009 by benefit processed

	Number
Incapacity benefit new claims processing	675
Employment and support allowance new claims processing	1,080

Note:
Figures represent an average of 12 months permanent staff from April 2008 to March 2009.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus Activity Based Management System.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of postal services provided for her Department and its agencies were provided by *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* other postal service providers (i) in 2007, (ii) in 2008, (iii) between 1 January and 1 July 2009 and (iv) since 1 July 2009. [298735]

Jim Knight: DWP's has three postal providers:

Royal Mail Group—DWP's primary provider for first and second class postal services between DWP, third parties and customers.

UK Mail—a specific contract for system generated second class mail to DWP customers; the final mile is still delivered by Royal Mail.

Spring Global Mail—a contract for international mail to DWP customers abroad.

Based on actual DWP spend per supplier the following table provides the percentage breakdown comparison for these contracts.

Percentage

	2007	*2008*	*1 January to 1 July 2009*	*1 July to 30 September 2009*
(a) Royal Mail	82.5	75.9	58.9	83.5
(b) Other postal providers:				
UK Mail	16.2	22.9	39.8	15.7
Spring Global Mail	1.3	1.2	1.3	0.8

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with which providers *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies had a contract to provide postal services in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, (iii) between 1 January 2009 and 1 July 2009 and (iv) since 1 July 2009. [299421]

Jim Knight: DWP and it's agencies has utilised all of the following postal providers since 2007:

Postal provider	*(i) 2007*	*(ii) 2008*	*(iii) 1 January 2009 to 1 July 2009*	*(iv) 1 July 2009 onwards*
Royal Mail Group	Mail Provider—within UK	Mail Provider—within UK	Mail Provider—within UK	Mail Provider—within UK
UK Mail	Mail Provider—within UK	Mail Provider—within UK	Mail Provider—within UK	Mail Provider—within UK
Spring Global Mail	Mail Provider—international mail	Mail Provider—international mail	Mail Provider—international mail	Mail Provider—international mail
TNT Express Mail	Courier Provider	Courier Provider	Courier Provider	Courier Provider

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the statistical datasets collected by her Department are published. [299660]

Jim Knight: As a matter of course, the Department for Work and Pensions publishes statistics from all of its datasets which meet the definition of "official statistics" set out in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. The statistics are published in accordance with the requirements set out in the "Code of Practice for Official Statistics" and the "National Statistician's Guidance on the Presentation and Publication of Official Statistics".

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 880W, on disability living allowance, what the latest figures are for the number of persons claiming the mobility component of disability living allowance in respect of each type of disability; and how much was paid to claimants with each disability type at the *(a)* higher and *(b)* lower rate. [296995]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans she has for the future of disability living allowance; and if she will make a statement. [297214]

Jonathan Shaw: We continuously keep the effectiveness of all benefits, including DLA, under review.

Electronic Government

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons the terms and conditions of the Directgov website prohibit photocopying of individual pages downloaded from the site. [299291]

Jim Knight: Directgov does not restrict its users from saving, printing or photocopying any material from direct.gov.uk article pages, the terms and conditions for which can be found at this page

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/SiteInformation/DG_020460

and are governed by Crown Copyright. In summary,

> "Crown copyright protected material (other than the Royal Arms and departmental or agency logos and photography) may be reproduced free of charge in any format or medium, provided it is reproduced accurately and not used in a misleading context".

Each Government service provided through Directgov may be subject to its own unique set of terms and conditions, which are based on the service offer, as well as the provision of third party datasets, which may restrict the use of specific datasets.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claimants of employment and support allowance had completed their work capability assessment within *(a)* one and four weeks, *(b)* five and eight weeks and *(c)* nine and 13 weeks of the start of their claim on the latest date for which figures are available; what the average waiting time has been for a work capability assessment for claimants of employment and support allowance to be concluded; and what the average time taken between the undertaking of a work capability assessment and a decision maker's decision was. [295517]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 26 October 2009]*: The latest reliable cohort of ESA claims were for claims starting in April 2009. We use this cohort to estimate Atos advice timings of the assessment process:

There were 100 (1 per cent.) completed within four weeks.

An additional 2,100 (8 per cent.) were completed between five and eight weeks.

An additional 9,700 (37 per cent.) were completed between nine and 13 weeks.

Customers are able to backdate claims to before they first contact Jobcentre Plus and backdating was on average two weeks for incapacity benefit and it is expected that this will be the same for ESA. Therefore, the figures above show the technical time between when the claim was made and the completed Work Capability Assessment but the true time that Jobcentre Plus and Atos have to work cases may be shorter.

A more accurate reflection of the amount of cases that pass through the process within 13 weeks would be determined by taking into account factors, such as, the time taken to return paperwork, whether their condition can be assessed on paper based evidence alone, whether further medical evidence is required or requested and whether a customer actually attends their initial appointment or it has to be re-scheduled. This information is not currently available but we will continue to undertake analysis of performance as the ESA regime beds in.

We do not hold information centrally on the time taken from Atos providing medical advice to the JCP decision maker's final decision.

Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 and percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Notes:

Data are based on time from claim start to completion of advice provided by Atos Healthcare. ESA claimants can backdate their claim before the time they first contact Jobcentre Plus to make a claim. Timings will therefore include any backdating of claims. For IB claims the average length of time claims were backdated was around two weeks and we expect the length to be similar for ESA claims. We do not hold information centrally on the time taken from Atos advice to the JCP decision maker's final decision.

WCA assessments take a number of weeks to complete and will assess a broad range of people whose assessments will take longer or shorter to complete depending on the details of their claim, such as: time taken to return paperwork, whether their condition can be assessed on paper based evidence alone, whether additional evidence is required and whether a claimant attends their initial appointment or it has to be re-scheduled. This inevitably means there are a number of claims in any cohort which are still outstanding many weeks after the start of the claim. The response takes a pragmatic approach by using the latest cohort we can reliably use that we do not expect includes a large number of un-cleared cases (by comparison with earlier cohorts which are more fully cleared), i.e. ESA claims which began in April 2009. Theses timings may change slightly if we reassess them at a later date as more assessments are completed.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when she plans to introduce *(a)* a skills screen for employment and support allowance claimants after the start of a claim and *(b)* a mandatory skills health check at a later point in their claim when appropriate; [298777]

(2) when she plans to introduce pilots for mandatory skills health checks for long-term jobseeker's allowance claimants; [298783]

(3) when she plans to introduce a skills screen for all new jobseeker's allowance claimants; [298784]

(4) how many and what proportion of new lone parent income support claimants have attended a full skills health check; [298788]

(4) how many and what proportion of new lone parent income support claimants have received a skills screen as part of their work focused interview. [298790]

Jim Knight: Skills screening has already been introduced for all new jobseeker's allowance claimants. In the 12 Jobcentre Plus districts involved in trialling integrated employment and skills services, JSA claimants who have not attended a skills health check on a voluntary basis by week 26 of their claim are mandated to do so.

Lone parent customers are not encompassed by IES trials activity and therefore do not receive skills screening or a referral to skills health checks. Although lone parent income support claimants may attend a skills health check on a voluntary basis, no data is currently collected.

No decisions have as yet been made about the introduction of skills screening and health checks for customer groups other than JSA claimants. This will be considered as part of planning for the national implementation of an integrated employment and skills service for JSA customers in 2010-11.

Employment and Support Allowance: Medical Examinations

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether decisions relating to individuals' requirements for a second medical assessment for employment support allowance may be made by persons other than Ministers; and if she will make a statement. [298088]

Jonathan Shaw: Customers dissatisfied with a medical examination undertaken by the DWP medical services provider, Atos Healthcare, are advised to contact the Atos Healthcare national customer relations team with their concerns. All complaints of dissatisfaction with a medial examination received by Atos Healthcare are investigated and complaints which relate to the medical examination are scrutinised by an experienced senior disability analyst doctor to ensure that the medical report is reasonable and justifiable. Where a medical report is found to be deficient, the national customer relations team at Atos Healthcare will advise the DWP decision maker of the deficiencies. It is the DWP who are responsible for requesting Atos Healthcare to undertake a secondary medical examination if they feel it is necessary.

Employment Schemes: Expenditure

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the most recent estimate is of the average cost to her Department of a work experience placement for an 18 to 24-year-old jobseeker. [293591]

Jim Knight: The cost of work experience placements vary depending on their length and design. The Department is introducing work experience placements through the Community Task Force and Backing Young Britain. Work experience placements are also currently delivered through the New Deal for Young People. Details on these placements and their costs are provided as follows.

From January 2010 the Department is implementing the Community Task Force to provide work experience placements for young people of up to 26 weeks as part of the Young Person's Guarantee. The following table shows the indicative budget and indicative number of starts published in the Community Task Force phase 1 Invitation to Tender, and the indicative budget divided by indicative starts.[1]

The table also shows the expected costs of work experience placements delivered as part of Backing Young Britain which was announced on 29 July 2009. The work experience placements will become available from early 2010 and will last for two weeks.

Programme	*Indicative expected total programme expenditure January 2010 to September 2011 (£ million)*	*Indicative total number of expected starts*	*Indicative average cost per person (£ million)*
Community task force[1]	78.240	63,000	1,250
Backing Young Britain (work experience)	1.2[2]	3,000	400

[1] The number of indicative Community Task Force (CTF) starts includes young people undertaking 13 weeks of work experience, young people undertaking an addition 13-week period of work experience and young people undertaking a period of work experience to complete their period of full-time activity under the Young Person's Guarantee (YPG).

[2] Figures up to March 2011.

In addition, the New Deal for Young People provides 13-week work experience placements through the Voluntary and Environment Task Force Options. The average costs of these options is summarised in the following table:

Programme	*Total programme expenditure in 2008-09 (£ million)*	*Total number of recorded starts*	*Average cost per person (£ million)*
New Deal for Young People (voluntary sector option)	22.2	29,571	750
New Deal for Young People (environmental task force option)	12.4	12,528	1,000

Employment Services: Executives

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of people who have received assistance from the Government's support for unemployed professionals and executives in each month since April 2009. [299925]

Jim Knight: This information will be available in early 2010.

Employment Training

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps she is taking to provide opportunities for training and education for unemployed people with *(a)* learning disabilities and *(b)* other disabilities. [297465]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions is committed to building pan-disability services for its customers, where provision is flexible and based on individual need, rather than a 'one size fits all' approach.

The Department for Work and Pensions current range of disability employment provision in place across England, Scotland and Wales, including Pathways to Work, Work Preparation and Workstep already offer disabled customers the chance to improve their skills and knowledge in areas such as job search, confidence building, CV and interview preparation, work placements and as an employee in supported employment.

In addition, the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills have jointly developed an employment and skills strategy to improve and integrate the employment and skills services to better help customers identify and gain the skills they need to find sustainable employment and progress in work and learning.

An integrated employment and skills service is being trialled in 12 Jobcentre Plus districts in England designed to meet the needs of those groups who are at a disadvantage in the labour market, including disabled people, to provide a customised service to the individual.

A new universal adult advancement and careers service is being trialled now and will be rolled out in England from autumn 2010. The service is available to all adults (not just Jobcentre Plus customers) and is targeted at the most disadvantaged in the labour market, including people with a learning disability or any other disability.

In June 2009, "Valuing Employment Now" was launched in England. This cross-Government strategy sets out an ambitious goal to increase radically the number of people with learning disabilities in employment by 2025. We aspire to close the gap between the employment rate of adults with moderate and severe learning disabilities and that of the disabled population as a whole.

Foundation learning, to be launched in April 2010 in England, for people with learning disabilities, will be of considerable help and support to them in the labour market. It will establish a structured curriculum leading to employment pathways and enhance opportunities for supported employment.

Apprenticeships in England are available to everyone and can help remove barriers to employment, providing additional support to enable people to train. Flexibilities are available to employers/providers to make it easier for a disabled person to gain entry to an apprenticeship.

On 30 October, we announced that 14 sites in England will take part in a Government evaluation of Project Search from next September. Project Search provides a series of internships with an employer for people with learning disabilities and helps them to develop the work and social skills they need to access real jobs.

The Department for Work and Pensions also currently contracts with nine residential training colleges to deliver a training programme through specialist services, facilities, learning and employment support, for disabled people facing the most significant or complex barriers to finding and keeping work. Provision includes qualification-based courses of vocational training leading to nationally recognised qualifications alongside job search and placements or work experience.

Employment: Chronically Sick

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Health to reduce the number of benefit recipients who have chronic debilitating conditions being brought into the productive workforce. [299195]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions met with the Secretary of State for Health recently and their discussion included what support is available for disabled people and those with health conditions, including Pathways to Work and the Condition Management Programme. Further details will be set out in the Back to Work White Paper.

Evidence shows that being out of work is bad for physical and mental health—while being in work generally leads to improved health outcomes and ultimately helps disabled people and those with health conditions live fulfilling and independent lives.

From 27 October 2008, we replaced incapacity benefits for new customers with the employment and support allowance. The employment and support allowance has a revised medical assessment, the work capability assessment, which focuses on what people can do, as well as what they cannot.

There is absolutely no intention of forcing those who can not work into jobs. We will not require anybody on employment and support allowance to apply for or take up specific jobs. The work capability assessment identifies those customers who should, and who should not, be expected to prepare to return to work.

Those in the work-related activity group are expected to engage with a personalised programme of support. This will help them to move into employment as soon as they are ready. The evidence of the beneficial impact of work, including for those with a health condition or disability, is too strong to ignore.

Those in the support group do not have to engage in work-focused interviews or work-related activity unless they so wish.

Our Departments are committed to working together in order to praise effective support for people with health conditions.

Employment: Lone Parents

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents have received support and guidance from personal advisers since it became available nationally for all lone parents once they have moved into work. [298862]

Helen Goodman: In Work Advisory Support was introduced in April 2008.

14,720 eligible lone parents have received In Work Advisory Support from personal advisers once they moved into work between 26 August 2008 and the end of September 2009, the most recent period for which figures are available.

Future Jobs Fund

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many successful bids under the Future Jobs Fund included *(a)* a worklessness assessment and *(b)* a work and skills plan. [297297]

Jim Knight: As a condition of local authority led partnerships receiving Future Jobs Fund funding they explicitly had to agree to complete a worklessness assessment and a work and skills plan by April 2010.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many successful Future Jobs Fund bids there have been; what estimate she has made of the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum number of jobs to be created under such bids; and how many such jobs are open for applications. [297346]

Jim Knight: There have been 195 successful Future Jobs Fund Bids in the first four rounds of bidding.

Successful bids will create:

Tranche 1 up to 75,400

Tranche 2 up to 7,500

Tranche 3 up to 4,400

Tranche 4 up to 7,200 (Tranche 4 figure does not include Scotland which will be announced on 12 November)

We have not estimated the minimum numbers that each bid will create; however as part of the bidding criteria, all bidders are required to create at least 30 jobs.

We will be publishing official statistics on the number of people participating in the Future Jobs Fund in spring 2010. Until then data regarding how many such jobs are open for applications are not available.

Housing Benefit: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Peterborough constituency were in receipt of housing benefit on the latest date for which figures are available. [300113]

Helen Goodman: The information is not available.

Incapacity Benefit

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claiming *(a)* incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance and *(c)* income support started the claim before 1997. [297353]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following table.

Numbers claiming benefits continuously since 1996, by benefit: Great Britain as at February 2009

	Number
Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance	570,950
Jobseeker's Allowance	330
Income Support	75,590

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. For the purposes of presenting the statistics in this table, benefits are arranged hierarchically and claimants are assigned to the topmost benefit which they receive:

(i) Jobseeker's Allowance—Claimant of Job Seekers Allowance.

(ii) Incapacity Benefits—Claimant of either Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance.

(iii) Income Support—claimants include lone parents (claimant of income support with a child under 16 and no partner), carer's allowance (in this case must also be receiving income support) and others on income related benefit—other income support claimants (including IS disability premiums).

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many layers of line management there are in Jobcentre Plus between board members and frontline staff. [299292]

Jim Knight: There are no layers of line management in Jobcentre Plus between Board members and frontline staff.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the charge per minute is of a telephone call to Jobseekers Direct from *(a)* a BT landline, *(b)* a landline operated by another provider and *(c)* a mobile telephone; and which organisation holds the contract for operating the Jobseekers Direct telephone service on behalf of Jobcentre Plus. [298961]

Jim Knight: The Department's strategy is that calls to claim benefit should be free to a customer so it uses 0800 freephone numbers for these calls. For calls for other reasons, including Jobseekers Direct, which typically take less time to resolve, the Department uses 0845 numbers.

BT, the largest landline provider, does not charge for 0845 calls where the customer has a call plan and the call is made within the call plan times. Where this is not the case, charges are typically in the range of 2p to 4p per minute.

From landlines operated by other providers, research carried out earlier this year shows a range of charges varying from 'free' to 7p per minute.

For calls to 0845 numbers from mobiles, research carried out earlier this year shows charges are typically in the range of 10p to 40p per minute, depending on the package chosen. These rates can vary as mobile providers change their charging policy.

Jobcentre Plus: Training

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training is provided to frontline staff in Jobcentre Plus on awareness of autism; and if she will make a statement. [293370]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is the responsibility of the acting chief executive, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what training is provided to frontline staff in Jobcentre Plus on awareness of autism. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There is no single set of procedures to be followed by advisers which are solely focused on helping people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder into work. Jobcentre Plus policy is to develop its staff in the skills required to support a range of customers and to respect their individual needs, including those related to their health conditions. This approach ensures that they are equipped to deal with a diverse set of circumstances whilst treating customers as individuals. Skilled employment advisers look at the interaction between the person, the job and the person's ability. Advisers ensure that job goals relate to the person's abilities and that relevant solutions are identified in order to overcome any barriers a customer might face in a particular job.

The learning programme for Jobcentre Plus advisers focuses on raising awareness of the customer's personal circumstances and the impact on their ability to move into a sustainable job. Jobcentre Plus also recognises that disabilities and health conditions can affect individuals in different ways and will change overtime. Guidance for advisers includes background information on a number of conditions, including Autistic Spectrum Disorder, the implications for interviews and how to use questioning techniques in order to support customers. Disability Employment Advisers, who focus on customers needing more extensive support, receive further levels of skills training appropriate to their customers, including skills practice in interviewing an autistic person to ensure key learning points are communicated in an effective way.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when she plans to reply to the letter of 15 September 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Burt; [296120]

(2) when she intends to reply to the letter to her dated 15 September 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Burt; [298050]

(3) when she plans to reply to question 296120, tabled on 22 October 2009 by the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on correspondence with Mr. Burt. [300077]

Jim Knight: Due to the complexities of the issues raised it has not been possible to reply to my right hon. Friend's correspondence as speedily as we would have wished. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will write to my right hon. Friend as soon as she is able to provide a full response to the issues he has raised on behalf of his constituent.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects to reply to the hon. Member for North Essex's letter of 28 September 2009 on his constituent Mr. Mark Esquilant's requirement for a second medical assessment for employment support allowance; for what reasons the letter was sent on to Atos Origin for reply; and if she will make a statement. [298889]

Jonathan Shaw: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 11 November 2009. The hon. Member's letter of 28 September 2009 was not passed to Atos Origin for reply. However, Atos Origin was contacted in order to gather information and establish factual circumstances around Mr. Esquilant's complaint.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to respond to question 296734, on Child Support Agency staff, tabled on 28 October 2009. [299611]

Helen Goodman: I have replied to the hon. Member's question today.

New Deal Schemes

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have found employment as a result of participating in the New Deal in *(a)* Vale of Clwyd and *(b)* each region in each year since its implementation. [299702]

Jim Knight: The information is in the following tables:

Jobs gained through New Deal: Vale of Clwyd parliamentary constituency Part 1

Thousand

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Vale of Clwyd	0.09	0.28	0.37	0.28	0.44	0.45

Jobs gained through New Deal: Vale of Clwyd parliamentary constituency Part 2

Thousand

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*[1]2009*	*Total*
Vale of Clwyd	0.46	0.35	0.28	0.39	0.30	0.02	3.72

Source: Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate.

Jobs gained through New Deal: Jobcentre Plus Region Part 1

Thousand

Region	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
East Midlands	5.02	12.49	[illegible]	13.28	15.12	16.23
East of England	5.30	12.37	12.69	11.46	13.53	14.96
London	11.73	28.73	28.50	24.69	28.65	34.06
North East	5.87	14.41	14.98	15.84	17.39	20.47
North West	11.39	28.66	30.80	29.30	33.82	36.58
Scotland	9.04	22.09	22.72	23.42	[illegible]	33.79
South East	6.16	16.23	16.16	14.83	16.54	18.58
South West	5.80	13.90	14.44	14.46	17.99	21.13
Wales	5.73	13.17	12.61	13.80	17.19	20.24
West Midlands	7.97	18.82	19.54	21.08	23.36	26.27
Yorkshire and the Humber	10.23	23.05	23.42	23.05	25.61	28.38
Missing	0.52	1.25	1.46	1.38	0.91	1.52
Total	84.76	205.13	210.21	206.59	239.04	272.20

Jobs gained through New Deal: Jobcentre Plus Region Part 2

Thousand

Region	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*[1]2009*	*Total*
East Midlands	18.18	16.34	14.99	17.12	15.93	1.72	159.31
East of England	18.41	17.97	15.20	17.48	16.96	1.83	158.15
London	37.73	35.73	31.97	36.75	32.41	3.86	334.78
North East	22.02	20.07	17.45	20.54	22.55	2.94	194.55
North West	41.14	37.79	31.61	37.37	37.46	5.01	360.93
Scotland	37.77	34.94	28.33	31.72	27.69	3.67	304.07
South East	21.32	20.19	18.42	21.83	21.12	2.18	193.58
South West	26.12	21.83	17.09	18.52	16.13	1.87	189.26
Wales	22.25	20.33	16.96	18.26	16.62	1.99	179.14
West Midlands	28.71	24.09	22.16	20.84	23.53	2.92	246.10
Yorkshire and the Humber	29.72	24.81	23.08	20.90	25.80	3.22	268.84

Jobs gained through New Deal: Jobcentre Plus Region Part 2

Region	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*[1]2009*	*Thousand* *Total*
Missing	2.17	2.84	2.69	3.25	3.61	0.44	22.06
Total	305.57	277.69	239.98	278.14	259.83	31.64	2,610.74

[1]Latest data are to February 2009. *Notes:* 1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and displayed in thousands.
2. The year of entering job is the calendar year that the job was gained.
3. Westminster parliamentary constituency (post May 2005) is allocated using the ONS Postcode Directory and customer's postcode.
4. New Deal for Young People started January 1998.
5. New Deal for Lone Parents started October 1998.
6. New Deal 50+: 98,040 jobs were gained by individuals who had received employment credit up to March 2003.
7. New Deal for Partners: 1,860 jobs were gained by participants on New Deal for Partners up to March 2004.
8. Spells information is unavailable for New Deal 50+ and New Deal for Partners, so individual level information is given instead.
9. New Deal for Disabled People started in July 2001. Since the introduction of Provider-Led Pathways to Work, New Deal for Disabled People has been available only in Jobcentre Plus Pathways to Work districts. Phase 1 Provider-Led Pathways to Work was implemented in December 2007 and Phase 2 in April 2008. Provider-Led Pathways to Work covers 60 per cent. of the country.
10. Some individuals may have had more than one job start.
11. The row titled "Missing" are jobs gained, but a region was not entered against that record.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate.

New Deal: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Peterborough constituency have participated in a New Deal scheme in each year since 2005. [300117]

Jim Knight: The figures are set out in the following table. They show the number of starts on New Deal in each year and some individuals may be included twice.

Starters (spells) on all New Deal schemes in Peterborough constituency:

	Number of New Deal starters in Peterborough constituency
2005	1,000
2006	890
2007	1,200
2008	1,060
2009[1]	460

[1] The latest data for 2009 are up to August.
Notes:
1. The figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. The Westminster parliamentary constituency (post May 2005) is allocated using the ONS Postcode Directory and customer's postcode.
3. The year of starting is the calendar year of starting New Deal.
4. Starters (spells) information is not available for New Deal 50 Plus or New Deal for Partners so Starters (individuals) data have been used instead for these schemes. This means that for these schemes only an individual's most recent spell on that New Deal is recorded.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate

The information contained in this reply is available in the public domain at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Part-Time Employment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of people in each *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* parliamentary constituency who are in part-time work because they have been unable to find full-time employment. [298869]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated November 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for the number of people in each *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* parliamentary constituency who are in part-time work because they have been unable to find full-time employment. (298869)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles detailed employment statistics for regions and local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1 shows the number of persons who stated that their reason for working part-time was that they could not find a full-time job. Figures are for the 12 month period ending March 2009 for Government Office Regions. Estimates are not available at small geographies such as local authorities and parliamentary constituencies.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. A guide to the quality of the estimates is given in Table 1.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons[1] whose reason for working part-time was "could not find full-time job", April 2008 to March 2009

	Thousand
East	**65
East Midlands	**58
London	**107
North East	**39
North West	**87
Scotland	**65
South East	**91
South West	**68
Wales	**42
West Midlands	**68
Yorkshire and The Humber	**60

[1] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates, see guide to quality as follows:
Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness
* 0 = CV< 5 Estimates are considered precise
** 5 = CV < 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 = CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
Source:
Annual Population Survey

Pensioners: Females

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 170W, on pensioners: females, what proportion of claimants of each benefit was under the age of 30 years; and if she will make a statement. [297379]

Jim Knight: The requested information is given in the following table:

The number and proportion of adults aged under 30 claiming key working age benefits by statistical group—February 2009

	Adults under 30	*Total*	*Proportion (percentage)*
Statistical group			
Jobseeker	637,820	1,421,600	44.9
Employment and support allowance and incapacity benefits	320,420	2,644,430	12.1
Lone parents	319,010	736,040	43.3
Carer	39,790	796,110	5.0
Others on income-related benefits	45,920	2,497,440	1.8
Disabled	106,750	2,093,430	5.1
Bereaved	550	105,050	0.5
Total	1,470,260	18,540,960	7.9

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest ten and percentages to one decimal place. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Adults are classed as people aged 16 and over.
3. Caseload figures for Attendance Allowance, Carer's Allowance and Disability Living Allowance include those cases with entitlement but where payment is currently suspended (for example, because of an extended stay in hospital or an overlapping benefit).
4. The figures relating to Employment and Support Allowance have been thoroughly quality assured to National Statistics standard; however, it should be noted that this is a new benefit using a new data source which may not have reached steady state in terms of operational processing and retrospection. Therefore the working age client group figures (excluding Jobseeker's Allowance) for February 2009 are provisional.
5. Statistical Group is a hierarchical variable. A person who fits into more than one category will only appear in the top-most one for which they are eligible; for example, a claimant of Disability Living Allowance and Jobseeker's Allowance would appear in 'Jobseeker', not in 'Disabled'.
6. Data are published at:
http://83.244.183.180/100pc/stgp/cnage/ccstatgp/a_carate_r_cnage_c_ccstatgp_feb09.html
7. For a small number of claimants it is not possible to determine their age. For the purposes of this table it has been assumed that they are aged 30 years or over.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what her latest estimate is of the number of women due to reach state pension age in each month of the next seven years; and if she will make a statement; [293580]

(2) what her latest estimate is of the number of women due to reach state pension age in each year between 2010 and 2026; and if she will make a statement. [293581]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions regarding the latest estimate of the number of women who will reach state pension age in each month of the next seven years (293580) and the latest estimate of the number of women due to reach state pension age in each year between 2010 and 2026.(293581)

These figures are not available immediately but ONS will place a copy of the tables in the House of Commons library once the appropriate analysis has been undertaken.

Pensions: Expenditure

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of *(a)* gross and *(b)* net cost of restoring the link between the basic state pension and earnings in each year between 2010 and 2015. [293575]

Angela Eagle: The basic state pension is increased by 2.5 per cent. when this is higher than September RPI inflation. This will apply in 2010, which means that the increase in the basic state pension will also exceed growth in average earnings.

The gross and net additional basic state pension spend due to increasing the basic state pension by earnings from 2010 and the 2007 Pensions Act reforms are given in the following table:

Additional basic state pension spend due to pension reform and uprating the basic state pension by earnings from 2010-11, 2009-10 price terms

£ billions

	Gross	*Net of income related benefits*
2010-11	-0.5	-0.4
2011-12	-0.8	-0.6
2012-13	-1.2	-0.8
2013-14	-0.8	-0.6
2014-15	-0.2	-0.3

Notes:

1. Baseline published projections of expenditure on pensioner benefits assume that the basic state pension is increased by earnings from 2012. Prior to 2012, projections assume that the basic state pension is uprated by the greater of RPI or 2.5 per cent.
2. Estimates given show the gross additional basic state pension spend due to increasing the basic state pension by earnings from 2010 and implementing all of the other 2007 Pensions Act reforms to the basic state pension from April 2010 relative to uprating by RPI or 2.5 per cent. They also reflect the estimated savings from reduced income related benefit payments (pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit). During the next Parliament, we will re-link the uprating of the basic state pension to average earnings. Our objective, subject to affordability and the fiscal position, is to do this in 2012, but in any event by the end of the next Parliament at the latest. We will make a statement on the precise date at the beginning of the next Parliament.
3. In the financial years up to and including 2014-15 Treasury Economic assumptions consistent with Table C1 of the Budget report 2009 have been used to model earnings uprating.
4. The costs and savings estimates provided are based on future projections of earnings and price inflation—which are inherently uncertain and subject to change particularly in light of the current economic uncertainty. This is underlined by the fact that the estimated cost of earnings uprating has changed significantly from estimates based on Treasury Economic Assumptions consistent with Table B1 of the pre-Budget report 2008.
5. Generally earnings rise faster than prices resulting in a greater cost from earnings uprating that would build over time—this would still be expected to hold over the medium and long term. Therefore despite the initial savings produced under current inflation forecasts, the introduction of earnings uprating would still be expected to increase expenditure on the basic state pension significantly as the cumulative costs of this policy grow over time.
6. If the restoration of the earnings link to the basic state pension were brought forward to 2010, the weekly value of the basic state pension to pensioners would be below the 2.5 per cent. increase committed to by the Chancellor at Budget 2009.
7. Estimates are in 2009-10 prices, have been rounded to the nearest £100 million and include UK and Overseas claimants.

Source:
DWP modelling.

Pensions: Fraud

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of pension mis-selling there have been in *(a)* Vale of Clwyd and *(b)* each region in each of the last 10 years. [299715]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

The Government do not hold the figures requested.

Return to Work Credit

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many former incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance claimants have claimed a return to work credit since its introduction. [298780]

Jonathan Shaw: Between 27 October 2003 and 31 January 2009, 92,500 individuals claimed the return to work credit.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate she has made of expected *(a)* on-flows, *(b)* off-flows and *(c)* stock claimant numbers for (i) incapacity benefit (credits only), (ii) incapacity benefit (benefits), (iii) severe disablement allowance and (iv) employment and support allowance in the (A) support and (B) work-related activity group in each of the next five years; [290934]

(2) what the estimated *(a)* on-flow and *(b)* off-flow for (i) employment and support allowance and (ii) jobseeker's allowance are for each year to 2012-13 (A) with and (B) without implementation of the proposed policy changes contained in "Raising Expectations and Increasing Support: Reforming Welfare for the Future". [291006]

Jim Knight: The policy changes contained within "Raising Expectations and Increasing Support: Reforming Welfare for the Future" were not reflected in our caseload assumptions for Budget 2009 as final decisions on the shape and timing of the conversion exercise from incapacity benefit to employment and support allowance had not then been made. Revised forecasts will be issued shortly following the pre-Budget report which will reflect those changes. Details of which will be published in the normal way.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what pilots are in place to test arrangements to improve links between housing organisations and Jobcentre Plus services. [298718]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked the Acting Chief Executive to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what pilots are in place to test arrangements to improve links between housing organisations and Jobcentre Plus services. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus engages with housing organisations at the delivery level through its partnership activity led by External Relations Managers. How and to what extent Jobcentre Plus Districts decide to do this is largely a matter for local discretion, balanced with wider business and partnership needs.

However, I am aware of the strong links between social housing and worklessness, and indeed, other measures of deprivation. Housing organisations have become increasingly important partners in delivering services to those most at risk of long term benefit dependency. We have common goals in helping social tenants to find and progress in work.

I have asked three Jobcentre Plus Districts (South London, Merseyside, and South Tyne and Wear Valley) to establish small teams of advisers to develop stronger links with social housing providers and with other local partner organisations. We are working with social housing organisations and with colleagues in Communities and Local Government (CLG) to deliver this estates-based approach. Jobcentre Plus advisers are working directly in local communities with high levels of social housing and high levels of deprivation. Their role is to engage with workless people who may otherwise be unlikely to take full advantage of the help available to them. The Teams offer a joined up service, through the support available from Jobcentre Plus and its partners, helping people move closer to, and into, work.

The approach is being overseen by a national Steering Group which includes representatives from the social housing sector and CLG. We will be reviewing how effective this enhanced partnership working can be in improving links between housing organisations and Jobcentre Plus.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of households *(a)* in total and *(b)* with at least one person of working age which were in receipt of benefits in excess of (i) £15,000, (ii) £20,000, (iii) £25,000, (iv) £30,000, (v) £40,000, (vi) £50,000 and (vii) £75,000 in each year since 1997. [298868]

Jim Knight: The available information is in the tables. The information is taken from the Family Resources Survey 1997-98 to 2007-08. Sample sizes are too small to yield reliable results for households in receipt of benefits of £25,000 or more in any year.

The Family Resources Survey includes declared income from the full range of social security benefits administered by Department for Work and Pensions, HM Revenue and Customs, Service Personnel and Veterans Agency and local authorities; it does not include income from tax credits. The amount of benefits a family receives is entirely dependent on its individual circumstances.

Number of households receiving benefits in excess of £15,000 per year, in real terms and as a percentage of all households in the survey area, in 2007-08 prices in each year since 1997-98

	Households receiving benefits in excess of £15,000 p.a.	*Households receiving benefits in excess of £15,000 p.a. as a percentage of all households*
1997-98	600,000	3
1998-99	700,000	3
1999-2000	700,000	3
2000-01	700,000	3
2001-02	900,000	4
2002-03	900,000	4
2003-04	1,000,000	4
2004-05	1,100,000	4
2005-06	1,100,000	4
2006-07	1,100,000	4
2007-08	1,200,000	4

Number of households receiving benefits in excess of £20,000 per year, in real terms and as a percentage of all households in the survey area, in 2007-08 prices in each year since 1997-98

	Households receiving benefits in excess of £20,000 p.a.	*Households receiving benefits in excess of £20,000 p. a. as a percentage of all households*
1997-98	100,000	1
1998-99	100,000	1

Number of households receiving benefits in excess of £20,000 per year, in real terms and as a percentage of all households in the survey area, in 2007-08 prices in each year since 1997-98

	Households receiving benefits in excess of £20,000 p.a.	*Households receiving benefits in excess of £20,000 p. a. as a percentage of all households*
1999-00	100,000	1
2000-01	100,000	1
2001-02	200,000	1
2002-03	200,000	1
2003-04	300,000	1
2004-05	300,000	1
2005-06	300,000	1
2006-07	200,000	1
2007-08	300,000	1

Number of households with at least one working-age person receiving benefits in excess of £15,000 per year, in real terms and as a percentage of all households in the survey area, in 2007-08 prices in each year since 1997-98

	Households receiving benefits in excess of £15,000 p.a.	*Households receiving benefits in excess of £15,000 p.a. as a percentage of all households*
1997-98	500,000	2
1998-99	500,000	2
1999-00	500,000	2
2000-01	500,000	2
2001-02	700,000	3
2002-03	600,000	3
2003-04	700,000	3
2004-05	700,000	3
2005-06	700,000	3
2006-07	600,000	2
2007-08	600,000	2

Number of households with at least one working-age person receiving benefits in excess of £20,000 per year, in real terms and as a percentage of all households in the survey area, in 2007-08 prices in each year since 1997-98

	Households receiving benefits in excess of £20,000 p.a.	*Households receiving benefits in excess of £20,000 p.a. as a percentage of all households*
1997-98	100,000	1
1998-99	100,000	1
1999-00	100,000	0
2000-01	100,000	0
2001-02	200,000	1
2002-03	200,000	1
2003-04	200,000	1
2004-05	200,000	1
2005-06	200,000	1
2006-07	200,000	1
2007-08	200,000	1

Notes:

1. The Family Resources Survey is a nationally representative sample of approximately 25,000 households for the latest year reported.
2. Population figures have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.
3. Percentages to the nearest 1 per cent. figures of 0 per cent. represent those of less than 0.5 per cent.
4. The figures for those with benefits in excess of £15,000 includes those with benefits in excess of £20,000
5. Results are for Great Britain up to and including 2001-02, and for the UK from 2002-03 onwards.
6. The thresholds in years before 2007-08 have been deflated by the Retail Price Index.
7. Data for each year were collected between April and the following March.
8. The figures are based on a sample of households which have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the FRS to Government Office Region populations by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.
9. Benefit receipt is based on self-assessment and therefore may be subject to misreporting.
10. Tax credits have not been included in benefit income.

Source:

Family Resources Survey 1997-98 to 2007-08

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations she has received on the time taken to arrange medical examinations for benefit claimants; and if she will make a statement. [295573]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has recently received correspondence from hon. Members on behalf of their constituents, correspondence from customers directly and parliamentary questions regarding medical examinations for benefit claimants, which have questions about the time taken to arrange examinations. However, it is not possible to give a further breakdown.

Unemployed: Work Experience

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 724W, on employment schemes, how many employers have entered into formal agreements with Jobcentre Plus to provide work trials in each of the last 24 months; and if she will make a statement. [298721]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available.

Unemployment: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of those resident in Coventry are economically inactive; and if she will make a statement. [298307]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* The following table shows employment and inactivity in Coventry by local authority district and in the hon. Member's constituency.

March 2009

Employment and inactivity	*Percentage/number*
Inactivity Rate (Working Age)	
Coventry Local Authority District (Percentage)	27.5
Coventry South Parliamentary Constituency (Percentage)	31.5
Inactivity Level (Working Age)	
Coventry Local Authority District (Number)	53,500
Coventry South Parliamentary Constituency (Number)	20,400

Note:

Constituency employment and inactivity rates are based on small samples from the Annual Population Survey, and therefore should be treated as a guide.

Source:

Annual Population Survey at:
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/

Unemployment: Disabled

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps she is taking to reduce the level of unemployment among people with learning disabilities. [297466]

Jonathan Shaw: "Valuing Employment Now" was published in June 2009. This strategy sets out the Government's goal to radically improve employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities in England.

Following the publication of "Valuing Employment Now", the Department for Work and Pensions and Scottish Government officials are working together to identify the impact of this strategy in improving the employment rate of people with learning disabilities in Scotland.

Vocational Training

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have participated in Back to Work seminars since their introduction. [298866]

Jim Knight: The Back to Work session was introduced in 28 out of 48 Jobcentre Plus districts in April 2009. The remaining districts will introduce the new programme from April 2010. Between April and October over 460,000 people have attended a Back to Work session

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to introduce pilots of mandatory basic skills and job-focused training courses for jobseeker's allowance claimants who have been on benefit for six months. [298781]

Jim Knight: We are currently designing a pilot for jobseeker's allowance customers who have been on benefit for six months and for whom skills are a barrier to obtaining sustainable employment. It will test whether the introduction of mandatory skills training impacts on training and job outcomes for these customers. We intend the pilot to begin in 2010.

People with basic skills needs are able to train from the beginning of their claim, through the Employability Skills Programme. The programme offers Jobcentre Plus customers aged 18 and over a full or part-time learning programme.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to introduce training allowances for long-term jobseeker's allowance claimants to attend intensive employability-focused training of up to eight weeks. [298782]

Jim Knight: Since April 2009, anyone who has been unemployed more than six months has been able to study full-time for up to eight weeks on a job-related training course approved by an employment adviser. Customers are moved to a training allowance for the duration of the course.

Under the Day One Offer, jobseekers can access a number of schemes and initiatives from day one of their claim. The available training includes help with jobsearch techniques, an extension of the Local Employment Partnerships and basic courses in literacy and numeracy for those who need them.

Winter Fuel Payments: Chronically Sick

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether terminally ill people under the age of 65 are entitled to receive the winter fuel payment. [299608]

Angela Eagle: Winter fuel payments are made to people aged 60 or over including those who are terminally ill.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to answer question 295425, on age discrimination, tabled on 20 October 2009. [298982]

Michael Jabez Foster: I have answered question 295425 today.

TREASURY

Bank Services

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 65W, on bank services, if he will publish the quantitative and qualitative data that HM Treasury has collected in the last two years. [299896]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Relevant data that the Treasury has had regard to over the past two years were published in Chapter 9 of the White Paper "Reforming Financial Markets" on 8 July 2009.

Banks: Finance

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the level of taxpayer exposure to banking sector loans and mortgages. [2[illegible]47]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: At Budget 2009, the Government provisionally estimated that net unrealised losses on financial sector interventions might lie within a potential range from £20 billion to £50 billion (or 1.5 per cent. to 3.5 per cent. of GDP).

The Government are continuing to develop estimates of losses as schemes are finalised, and as market conditions normalise. They will provide an update on their estimate at the pre-Budget report in December.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much new capital was *(a)* committed to and *(b)* paid to UK banks from the public purse in the last two years. [299948]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Details of the Government's capital injections into UK banks for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 are set out in HM Treasury's Resource Accounts for 2007-08 (HC 539) and 2008-09 (HC 611), respectively. HM Treasury's Resource Accounts are available in the House of Commons Library.

Banks: Government Shareholding

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the amount that would be raised by the sale of Government-owned shares in *(a)* Royal Bank of Scotland and *(b)* Lloyds Banking Group assuming the Government could sell the shares at a five per cent. discount to the market price. [299950]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government currently hold 39,645 million ordinary shares in the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS).

The Government currently hold 11,799 million ordinary shares in the Lloyds Banking Group (LBG).

Details of the Government's equity investments in Royal Bank of Scotland and the Lloyds Banking Group are set out in HM Treasury's Resource Accounts for 2008-09 (HC 611).

The amount raised from the disposal of these investments would depend on the market price of the shares at the point of sale.

Banks: Pay

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will make it his policy to require UK Financial Investments to seek publication of the amounts paid in bonuses to senior staff by banks and financial institutions in receipt of public money; [299890]

(2) how much has been allocated for the payment of bonuses to staff by banks and financial institutions in receipt of public money in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [299891]

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* Lloyds Banking Group and *(b)* Royal Bank of Scotland have paid in bonus payments to (i) directors and (ii) staff in the last 12 months. [299964]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The banks in which the Government are a shareholder are managed on an arm's length commercial basis by United Kingdom Financial Investments. UKFI has engaged with its investee banks as a shareholder to implement the most far-reaching reforms to bonus practices of any major bank in the world.

The Government's policy is that state-controlled companies (including UKFI investee banks) should follow the disclosure requirements for companies listed on the Stock Exchange, including the Combined Code on Corporate Governance and Directors' Remuneration Report Regulations. We expect the banks in which Government have interests to be at the forefront of implementing the recommendations of the Walker Review, and any other international and domestic remuneration regulations and codes.

As such their annual report will contain a Directors' Remuneration Report including information on directors' remuneration.

Bradford and Bingley

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any public money was provided to Santander in respect of Bradford and Bingley's deposit liabilities. [299949]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Details of the financial support provided to UK banks in 2008-09, including amounts involved in the transfer of Bradford and Bingley's retail deposits to Abbey, are set out in the Treasury's resource accounts for 2008-09 (HC 611).

Civil Service: Location

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what processes his Department has established to monitor the implementation of recommendations made in the 2004 Lyons Review; what assessment he has made of the effects on Departments of such implementation; what estimate he has made of the effects on central Government costs of staff relocations arising from Sir Michael's recommendations; and if he will make a statement. [297680]

Mr. Byrne: The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) is responsible for monitoring the Government's relocations programme.

OGC provides the Chief Secretary to the Treasury with quarterly updates on the programme's progress. Departments also report on progress against their respective targets in their annual departmental reports.

The Government's existing property strategy requires all new acquisitions, lease renewals and break clauses to seek ministerial approval to stay in London and the south-east. This ensures the CST can assess, in the light of the Government's relocation programme, future estate management issues as well as providing an opportunity to monitor current progress.

Departmental contributions towards the relocations target can be found on the OGC website:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/
government_relocation_relocation_programm_progress.asp

Beyond these staff numbers OGC does not hold information on how Departments are affected by the implementation of Sir Michael Lyons 2004 Review or on the central cost of relocations.

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the relocation of civil service functions away from London and the south-east. [297681]

Mr. Byrne: The Government's target is to relocate 24,000 civil service posts out of London and the south-east by 31 March 2010. Budget 2009 reported that at end of December 2008, 19,090 posts had been relocated to all parts of the UK.

The Government have announced that there will be a presumption against south-east locations for all Government functions other than face-to-face services. This has been reflected in guidance to Departments.

Decisions on departmental relocations take into account the impact on service delivery.

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of the first tranche of 20,000 jobs identified for relocation in the 2004 Lyons Review have been relocated; and how many of these jobs were in each Department. [297682]

Mr. Byrne: The Government are making strong progress towards its original relocations target of 20,000 posts by 31 March 2010. Budget 2009 announced that 19,090 posts have been relocated already. The following table shows each Department's contribution:

Department	*Number of posts*
Education and Skills	785
Health	975
Home Office	2,894
Ministry of Justice (formerly DCA)	772
Defence	3,851
Culture, Media and Sport	867
Work and Pensions	4,223
Chancellor's Departments	3,287
Others	1,436
Cabinet Office[1]	66
Communities and Local Government (formerly ODPM)	220
Crown Prosecution Service[2]	43
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	403
Foreign and Commonwealth Office[3]	331
International Development	88
Northern Ireland Office	8
Trade and Industry[4]	540
Transport[5]	62
Total[6]	19,090

[1] Includes 25 Charity Commission relocations.

[2] The Crown Prosecution Service had no relocation target at the start of SR04, but later agreed a target of relocating 20 posts out of London and the south-east by 31 March 2008.

[3] Includes relocations out of London to Hanslope Park.

[4] Includes 171 BIS and three OFT relocations.

[5] Includes relocations out of London to Hastings.

[6] The total towards the target excludes the additional moves that the FCO and DFT have managed to achieve.

The OGC website provides a further breakdown of the relocations programme:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/government_relocation_relocation_programme_progress_8176.asp

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Departments have conducted second tranche studies as recommended by the 2004 Lyons Review; and how many civil service jobs in each department were subsequently relocated. [297683]

Mr. Byrne: Budget 2009 announced plans to increase the target to 24,000 posts by 31 March, 2010. Additionally, Budget 2009 stated that the Office of Government Commerce would work with Departments to review the level of ambition and relocations in the medium term. This is ongoing.

Construction Industry Scheme

Ms Keeble: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the number of people who are registered with the construction industry scheme for tax purposes. [299599]

Mr. Timms: In 2008-09 1.02 million unique taxpayers (individuals and businesses) were registered under the Construction Industry Scheme:

171,000 were registered as contractors and made returns;

965,000 were registered as sub-contractors and received at least one payment during the year.

114,000 were registered as both a subcontractor and a contractor.

Debts: Developing Countries

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much debt is owed to the UK by the poorest countries in the world; what steps his Department has taken to reduce this debt; and if he will make a statement. [299940]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The UK has taken a strong lead on providing debt relief for the poorest, most indebted countries. 40 countries are eligible under the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative to receive debt relief from the UK. The UK has renounced the right to benefit from historic debt of these countries.

The UK has irrevocably cancelled 100 per cent. of debts from the 26 countries that have reached completion point under the HIPC initiative. A further nine countries are receiving interim relief, and the UK does not receive any debt payments from these countries. The UK also holds in trust any payments made to the UK by the remaining five countries yet to enter the HIPC initiative and returns the payments once the countries enter the initiative.

The remaining 14 countries that are yet to complete the HIPC initiative owe the UK approximately £609.7 million. The UK will cancel 100 per cent. of this debt as each country reaches completion point.

Departmental Advertising

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on advertising in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [299843]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1093W, to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond).

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many first-class flights were taken by each Minister in his Department in 2008-09; and what the *(a)* origin, *(b)* destination and *(c)* cost was of each such flight. [298745]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on entertainment from its conference and hospitality budgets in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [290177]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: All expenditure, including that on entertainment, has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Data in expenditure broken down by conference and hospitality budgets are not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Postal Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what percentage of postal services for his Department and its agencies were provided by *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* other postal service providers (i) in 2007, (ii) in 2008, (iii) between 1 January and 1 July 2009 and (iv) after 1 July 2009. [298732]

Mr. Scott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of postal services provided for his Department and its agencies were provided by *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* other postal service providers (i) in 2007, (ii) in 2008, (iii) between 1 January and 1 July 2009 and (iv) after 1 July 2009. [298731]

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with which providers *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies had a contract to provide postal services in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, (iii) between 1 January 2009 and 1 July 2009 and (iv) since 1 July 2009. [299435]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Royal Mail provides all external postal services to HM Treasury Group and have done so throughout 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the statistical datasets collected by his Department are published. [299662]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: As a matter of course, the Treasury publishes information from all of its statistical datasets that meet the definition of "official statistics" set out in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. All of the Treasury's National Statistics releases are published in accordance with the requirements set out in the "Code of Practice for Official Statistics" and the "National Statistician's Guidance on the Presentation and Publication of Official Statistics".

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 254W, on departmental training, how many staff attended courses on *(a)* harnessing the power of your personality, *(b)* overpayments recovery workshop, *(c)* your contribution to tackling avoidance, *(d)* dog behaviour and *(e)* reduction of administrative burdens on business in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [299403]

Mr. Timms: The number of staff attending the courses in the 12 month period 1 October 2008 to 30 September 2009 is as follows:

(a) harnessing the power of your personality - 1; National School of Government course designed for those who have to take responsibility for making things happen and are dependent on the performance of others to do so.

(b) overpayments recovery workshop - 191; Internal HMRC course aimed at Recovery staff involved in the recovery of Tax Credit overpayments.

(c) Your contribution to tackling avoidance - 18; internal HMRC seminar aimed at all new policy officials working on anti-avoidance issues.

(d) Dog behaviour - 8; Metropolitan Police provided course for persons linked to the detector dog programme.

(e) Reduction of administrative burdens on business-this course was not available in the period in question.

Figures on the cost of this training provision could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EU Budget: Contributions

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the UK's net contribution to the European Union was for 2008-09; and what estimate he has made of the net contribution for 2009-10. [299929]

Ian Pearson: The Government's latest forecasts for the UK's net contribution to the European Community budget for 2008-09 and 2009-10 were published in table C9 of the Budget 2009 (HC 407), page 238. As usual, these figures will, where necessary, be updated in the forthcoming pre-Budget report.

Excise Duties: Agricultural Machinery

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the revenue from vehicle excise duty for tractors was in each of the last 10 years. [299880]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Tractors have been exempt from vehicle excise duty since 2001. For revenue figures for agricultural vehicles, which includes tractors, for years before 2001, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor the Minister for Housing, my right hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey) on 18 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 1260W.

Fossil Fuel Levy: Scotland

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when members of his Department last met the Scottish Executive to discuss the drawdown and utilisation of the Scottish Fossil Fuel Levy Fund for the promotion of energy use from renewable sources; and if he will publish the correspondence received from the Scottish Executive on the future use of the fund. [298470]

Mr. Byrne: The Treasury and the Scottish Executive meet regularly to discuss a wide range of issues.

Gift Aid

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 256W, on Gift Aid, whether the terms of reference of his Department's research into Gift Aid includes examination of the effect of reducing the availability of Gift Aid for those on *(a)* 40 per cent. income tax and *(b)* 50 per cent. income tax. [299326]

Ian Pearson: The commissioned Gift Aid donor research investigates the possible effects of changing Gift Aid, including redirecting higher rate relief for individuals taxed at 40 per cent. so that it is given directly to charities. The research was commissioned before Budget 09 so the 50 per cent. rate was not included in the research.

Government: Assets

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 24, on the sale of Government assets, what requirements there are on local authorities to spend the proceeds from asset sales; and if he will make a statement. [299310]

Mr. Byrne: Excepting certain receipts from the sale of housing land and dwellings that are required to be pooled centrally or surrendered, and sales of school playing fields that are required to be recycled into education or sports provision, English local authorities are free to use capital receipts from asset sales to support capital investment, repay debt, earn interest or any combination of these. The decision rests with the local authority concerned.

HM Revenue and Customs

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many layers of line management there are in between the Chief Executive and frontline staff. [299456]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) frontline staff can be of any grade. This includes Senior Civil Service staff that have responsibility for dealing with our major taxpayers, involving, for example Corporation or Inheritance Taxes.

HMRC has the following staff grades:

Chief Executive/Permanent Secretary
Senior Civil Service 3
Senior Civil Service 2
Senior Civil Service 1a
Senior Civil Service 1
Grade 6
Grade 7
Fast Stream
Senior Officer
Higher Officer
Officer
Assistant Officer
Administrative Assistant

With the exception of Fast Streamers staff at grade Officer and above may have management responsibilities.

Lloyds Banking Group

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons his Department plans to subscribe for new right shares in Lloyds Banking Group. [299968]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: As a shareholder, the Government have the option to take up part of the newly issued equity. If we did not do so, the value of the existing taxpayer shareholding would be diminished. To protect the value of our shares, we have therefore decided to take up our share of this new capital investing £5.7 billion net of an underwriting fee.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 22 September from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. J Roche. [300078]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury hopes to be in a position to reply to the right hon. Member shortly, and apologises for the delay.

National Debt

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the level of the UK's financial liabilities, including debt, private finance initiative, public private partnership, unfunded pensions and bank liabilities. [299952]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Public sector net debt is measured by means of National Accounts aggregates compiled by the independent Office for National Statistics, using internationally accepted methodology. It is published on both an including and excluding financial sector interventions basis at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

Net public sector pensions expenditure is reported on a National Accounts basis in Table C9 of Budget 2009; while the Government Actuary's Department estimate of the total liability of the unfunded public service occupational pension schemes as at 31 March 2006 was published in Box 4.4 of the 2008 Long-Term Public Finances Report:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/bud_bud08_longterm.htm

Data on the private finance initiative are published in Tables 2.4-2.6 of the HMT publication "Budget 2009: The Economy and Public Finances—Supplementary Material":

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_econfinances_968.pdf

Non-Domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* total and *(b)* average rateable value for hereditaments in each special category code is on (i) the 2005 Rating List and (ii) the draft 2010 Rating List. [294527]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing the number of hereditaments and the total and average rateable values for hereditaments in each special category code on both the 2005 Rating Lists and the draft 2010 Rating Lists at 29 May 2009. These data are consistent with the consultation document titled: "The transitional arrangements for the non-domestic rating revaluation 2010 in England", published on 8 July 2009. A copy of the consultation document is available at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nndrrevaluation2010

The number of hereditaments in each special category code has been rounded to the nearest 10 and the figures for total and average rateable value have been rounded to the nearest thousand pounds.

Please note that:

a) betting shops and offices have special category code 24;

b) bingo halls have special category code 25;

c) i) public houses/pub restaurants have special category codes 226 and 227; ii) restaurants have special category code 234; iii) wine bars have special category code 303;

d) night clubs and discotheques have special code 199;

e) casinos and gambling clubs have special category code 49;

f) petrol stations have special category code 209.

Northern Rock

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the timetable is for the sale of part of Northern Rock. [299951]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: It has always been the Government's intention to return Northern Rock plc to the private sector as soon as practicable.

No decision has yet been taken as to when this will be, and any sale will occur only when conditions are right.

Government will continue to base their judgments on the best available information in the current market conditions.

Post War Credits

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated monetary value of unclaimed post-war credits is. [299888]

Ian Pearson: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs hold two million post-war credit cards representing unclaimed credits. The average credit is £20. The estimated amount unclaimed is therefore £40 million.

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been paid out in post-war credits since March 1996. [299923]

Ian Pearson: So far this financial year HM Revenue and Customs have paid £5,150.49 (to end October 2009) which equates to approximately £10,000 per annum. Precise figures on how much has been paid out since March 1996 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to publish his Department's factual paper on the Barnett formula. [299343]

Mr. Byrne: The Treasury has provided evidence on the Barnett formula to the House of Lords Select Committee on the Barnett formula. The evidence was published in the Committee's report on 17 July 2009 (HL Paper 139).

Public Sector: Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will include his most recent estimate of total public sector pension liabilities in his next statement on the pre-Budget report. [299308]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1353W.

Revenue and Customs: East Kilbride

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many established posts there were at each grade in Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs offices at East Kilbride in each of the last five years. [298424]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has offices at Plaza Tower and Queensway House and Hawbank stores at East Kilbride.

The number of staff by grade employed at these offices on 1 April each year is provided in the following table.

Grade	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Grade 6	(7)	4 (4)	7 (7)	7 (7)	7 (7)
Grade 7	(14)	14 (14)	12 (12)	13 (13)	17 (17)
Fast Stream	(0)	3 (3)	2 (2)	3 (3)	1 (1)
Senior Officer	(26)	30 (30)	26 (26)	30 (30)	30 (30)
Higher Officer	(85)	102 (102)	101 (101)	101 (101)	115 (115)
Officer	(495)	509 (521)	513 (515)	515 (515)	578 (589)
Assistant Officer	(1,141)	1,18 (1,500)	1,340 (1598)	1,305 (1438)	1,575 (1,643)
Administrative Assistant	(425)	342 (404)	330 (406)	321 (402)	354 (386)
Total	(2,193)	2,222 (2,578)	2,331 (2,667)	2,295 (2,609)	2,677 (2,788)

The figures shown are the number of permanent staff. The figures in brackets show the total number of staff. Separate records for permanent and temporary staff were not maintained for 2005.

Royal Bank of Scotland

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the bad debt position at Royal Bank of Scotland prior to granting it further financial support; [299966]

(2) what his latest estimate is of the likely level of losses on loan books at Royal Bank of Scotland. [299967]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: On 3 November the Government announced a final agreement with RBS on its participation in the APS. The agreement takes account of the detailed due diligence the Government have undertaken, as well as the results of the FSA stress tests and the requirements of the European Commission's state aid guidelines, including those on impaired assets.

The most recent detailed information on RBS's financial position is set out in its 2009 Third Quarter Interim Management Statement.

Royal Bank of Scotland/Lloyds Banking Group

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the timetable is for the asset sales by Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds Banking Group under EU competition requirements; and what estimate he has made of the size of those assets. [299965]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Under the agreements reached between the Government, RBS, Lloyds, and Commissioner Kroes announced last week, RBS and Lloyds will each have up to four years to make the announced divestments. Valuation of the assets is a matter for LBG/RBS, and will depend on market conditions at the point of sale.

Tax Evasion: Bolton

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* businesses in Bolton, North-East constituency were investigated for offences related to tax evasion in each of the last five years. [299636]

Mr. Timms: Records of HM Revenue and Customs' compliance checks into potential cases of tax evasion are not held centrally, and could currently be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Taxation

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the change has been in percentage terms income tax, national insurance and indirect taxes for *(a)* a single person on average earnings and *(b)* a married couple on average earnings with two children since 1 May 1997; and by how much in percentage terms income has risen for (i) a single person on average earnings and (ii) a married couple on average earnings with two children since 1 May 1997. [299564]

Mr. Timms: Tax credits and child benefit offset income tax and national insurance and mean four out of 10 families pay no net tax. In 2009-10 the net direct tax liability for:

> a single person, with no children on average earnings is two percentage points lower than in 1997-98; and
>
> a couple with 2 children on average earnings is nine percentage points lower than in 1997-98.

Between 1997-98 and 2009-10 average earnings have increased by 14 per cent. in real terms.

Information on indirect tax liabilities is not available as these are dependent on household spending patterns, which vary widely within similar household types. There is also greater sampling variability for households at specific earnings levels due to the small sample sizes.

Tobin Tax

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effects of a Tobin tax on the UK financial services sector. [299605]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: As the Prime Minister set out on 7 November 2009 at the G20 summit at St. Andrews, any financial transaction tax—or indeed any other option aimed at ensuring the international financial sector makes a fair contribution back to the taxpayer for the cost of Government interventions in the banking sector—would need to be subject to four core principles: it would need to apply globally; must be non-distortionary; must complement—and reinforce—action the G20 are already taking to enhance the stability of the international financial system; and it must be fair to the financial sector. The effect of any such transaction tax on the UK financial sector would depend on how precisely these principles were implemented.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he had with *(a)* his (i) US and (ii) Canadian counterpart and *(b)* the International Monetary Fund about a Tobin tax prior to the speech made by the Prime Minister at St Andrews on 7 November 2009. [299606]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Ulster Bank: Pay

Mark Durkan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what representations he has received from the Irish Bank Officials Association on Ulster Bank's plans in relation to contractual bonuses to its lower-paid employees; [299832]

(2) what information his Department holds on Ulster Bank's proposal to withhold the 10 per cent. contractual profit share payment from lower-paid employees which his Department had previously authorised in respect of the Royal Bank of Scotland Group. [299833]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Chancellor receives a wide range of representations on issues relating to banks in receipt of public funds. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

The Government's shareholdings in RBS are managed on a commercial and arm's length basis by UK Financial Investments Ltd (UKFI). UKFI's objective is to protect and create value for the taxpayer as shareholder, with due regard to the maintenance of financial stability, and to act in a way that promotes competition.

Valuation Office: Allowances

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value was of the expense claims made by each board member of the Valuation Office Agency in each of the last two years. [298445]

Ian Pearson: The expense claims of management board members in the last two years were as detailed in the following table:

£

Expenses claimed	*1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008*	*1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009*
Chief Executive	4,934	3,194
Deputy Chief Executive	4,283	2,018
Director of Data Strategy	3,757	4,132
Director of HR	2,352	2,187
Head of Communications	2,368	9,31
Director of Finance	3,628	2,088
Chief Information Officer	2,673	4,878
Director of National and Central Services	0	34,039
Director of Commercial Services	0	3,235
Director of District Valuer Services	0	0
Non Executive Director 1	0	0
Non Executive Director 2	0	126

Welfare Tax Credits

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the effect on public expenditure of increasing the first income threshold of working tax credits by £500 while removing the second income threshold on tax credits and applying a consistent taper rate of 44 per cent. in each of the next five years; and if he will estimate the number of people who would have their awards reduced to zero in each case; [299603]

(2) if he will estimate the effect on public expenditure of removing the second income threshold on tax credits and applying a consistent taper rate of 39 per cent. in each of the next five years; and if he will estimate the number of people who would have their awards reduced to zero in each case. [299604]

Mr. Timms: The following figures provide an indication of the savings from 2010-11 to 2014-15 from these changes. These figures do not account for possible behavioural effects and should therefore be treated with caution. There may be a significant effect on work incentives arising from increasing marginal withdrawal rates.

Effect on expenditure, £ million

Changes	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Removing the second income threshold, a 44 per cent taper rate and increase the first income threshold by £500	1,510	1,555	1,585	1,625	1,670
Removing the second income threshold, and a 39 per cent taper rate	720	710	670	650	620

Estimates of the number of claimants who would have their award tapered to zero if these measures were implemented immediately are shown in the following table.

Additional number of claimants with awards tapered to zero, thousands

	Number
Removing the second income threshold a 44 per cent taper rate and increase the first income threshold by £500	1,670
Removing the second income threshold and a 39 per cent. taper rate	1,450

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the estimated average monthly wage of *(a)* a poppy farmer and *(b)* a grain farmer in Afghanistan. [299643]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Afghan farmers do not normally receive a regular wage from poppy or wheat farming. Their income comes from a number of different sources, including the cultivation of a number of crops simultaneously and other sources such as manual labour.

Average national figures for farmers' income are currently not available; we have made estimates for Helmand. In 2008-09 the net returns on a jerib (one fifth of one hectare) of wheat were US$200, whereas the net returns on a jerib of opium were US$20-430. Wheat is currently a more competitive crop than in previous years because of the relatively high prices of wheat and the low opium prices, combined with high labour costs for opium cultivation.

Africa: Foreign Relations

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the African Union on UK foreign policy in relation to Africa. [298937]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government have regular contact with the African Union (AU) at official and ministerial level.

My noble Friend, the former Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, attended the AU Summit in July this year where he met various AU representatives including the Chairperson of the AU Commission, Jean Ping, and his deputy, Erastus Mwencha. He held wide-ranging discussions on UK and AU policy on, for example, Somalia, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo and the global economic crisis.

Aid Workers

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken to help protect UK aid workers working in dangerous parts of the world. [298799]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

The UK Government take the safety of British aid workers very seriously at all times. The Department for International Development (DFID) works closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and other agencies in assessing threats and vulnerabilities. Local security management and mitigation measures are tailored to each environment and these are kept under frequent review.

Akmal Shaikh

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of China on the sentencing of Akmal Shaikh; and if he will make a statement. [297907]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary were very concerned to learn that the death sentence imposed on Akmal Shaikh, was upheld apparently without proper consideration of mitigating factors including his mental health. The Prime Minister wrote to President Hu on 14 October 2009 and the Foreign Secretary wrote to Foreign Minister Yang on 16 October 2009 to express our serious concerns about how the case has been managed and restate our opposition to the death penalty in all circumstances.

We both also raised the case with Chinese State Councillor for Foreign Affairs Dai Bingguo in London on 19 October 2009. We continue to use every opportunity to raise the case with our Chinese counterparts in London and in Beijing. The EU troika presented a démarche at ambassador level to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 11 November 2009. We continue to identify opportunities for further representations.

China: Capital Punishment

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with the Chinese Government on *(a)* the recent execution of persons found to have been involved in rioting in Xinjiang and *(b)* the level of autonomy of the Government of that region. [300091]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have made clear our opposition to the death penalty in principle, and working with EU counterparts we urged the Chinese authorities not to carry out the sentences on those convicted in connection with the riots in Xinjiang in July this year. We remain concerned that independent observers were not allowed at the trials and continue to argue to the Chinese that all those arrested should be given fair and transparent trials and access to justice. Our embassy asked for access to the trials linked to the unrest but they were refused access.

We remain concerned over the situation in Xinjiang, in particular respect for cultural rights and religious freedoms, and raised this most recently at the last round of the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue in May 2009 and at the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in January 2009, where we have consistently raised the rights of ethnic minorities in China through successive rounds of dialogue.

Departmental Advertising

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on advertising in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [299845]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 540W.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department's information assurance procedures have been subject to an independent audit. [299376]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has not been subject to an independent audit of its information assurance procedures. However, in 2009 the FCO conducted a self-assessment against the Information Assurance Maturity Model supported by an external body, and the results showed that FCO's information assurance meets the Government's Security Policy Framework standards.

Hossein Rassam

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with foreign counterparts on securing the release of Hossein Rassam; and if he will make a statement. [298677]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary telephoned the Iranian Foreign Minister, Manouchehr Mottaki, on 1 November 2009 to make clear our concern over the sentencing of Hossein Rassam. In addition to conversations with EU counterparts at the General Affairs and External Relations Council and European Council, the Foreign Secretary has also discussed this case with the Swedish Foreign Minister, Carl Bildt, and during his recent visit to Turkey.

We are deeply concerned by the harassment of our staff in Tehran by the Iranian authorities: none has done anything wrong and the sentence imposed upon Hossein Rassam is completely unjustified and unacceptable. We have urged the Iranian authorities to ensure that Hossein Rassam's appeal is dealt with swiftly and the sentence overturned.

India: Entry Clearance

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of British citizens expected to be required to leave India as a consequence of rejection of visa *(a)* applications and *(b)* renewals following the policy changes made by the Government of India; what support and advice his Department is offering to those required to leave; and if he will make a statement. [299680]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have not been notified about a change of policy by the Government of India on visa applications though we are aware, including from Indian media reports, that existing immigration rules for business and employment visitors are being rigorously enforced.

Some British nationals have contacted our offices in India about the status of their visas. We have advised those currently possessing the incorrect visa to leave India before the expiry of the Indian Government's deadline and then apply for the correct visa.

Advice is available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Travel Advice for India

www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/asia-oceania/india

and our high commission's website

www.ukinindia.gov.uk

We have also consulted British business groups in India and we are not aware of many British nationals being directly affected.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials from his Department are seconded to work on the Chilcot Inquiry; and if he will make a statement. [293560]

David Miliband: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 413W.

Israel: Foreign Visits

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what facilities his Department offered Ehud Barak during his visit to the UK in September 2009; and what meetings took place between Mr. Barak and representatives of the Government. [299217]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 10 November 2009]*: We adhere to our international legal obligations to implement appropriate security measures for all visits by foreign dignitaries to the UK to ensure their safety and dignity are not compromised, but we do not discuss the details of any protection arrangements that may be provided for public figures as to do so may compromise their safety.

Mr. Barak met my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and the Defence Secretary.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he intends to reply to the letter to him dated 21 September 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms M. Dolan. [299054]

David Miliband: We first received this letter on Monday 9 November 2009 when a copy was faxed to us. I replied today.

Mongolia: Foreign Relations

Mr. Gregan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest assessment is of the state of relations between the UK and Mongolia; and if he will make a statement. [299771]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Relations between the UK and Mongolia have always been strong. In 1963 the UK became the first western country to establish diplomatic relations with Mongolia. This long association has given the UK a special position in Mongolia. Both countries continue to look at ways to further develop the relationship by working on areas such as investment, education, regional security, climate change and international peacekeeping.

The approval of an investment law in Mongolia in August 2009 has opened up major opportunities for commercial ties. For example - Rio Tinto, Ivanhoe Mines and the Government of Mongolia signed a contract in October 2009 to mine copper and gold at Oyu Tolgoi, one of the largest undeveloped deposits in the world with resources in excess of $290 billion. This project has the potential to radically transform the Mongolian economy, and has already attracted unprecedented UK interest in doing business with Mongolia. We hope that the upcoming European Bank of Reconstruction and Development conference in December will further promote trade and investment ties. And we welcome the recent establishment of a UK-Mongolia Chamber of Commerce in London.

Our interest in deepening relations with Mongolia goes beyond trade and investment. Mongolia makes important contributions to UN peacekeeping operations, including deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq, Sierra Leone, Western Sahara, Sudan, Kosovo and Somalia. These deployments have always been held in high regard by the UK. They demonstrate Mongolia's commitment to playing a responsible role on the world stage.

On other global challenges, we have welcomed Mongolia's proposals to increase co-operation with their regional partners on tackling climate change. Through our embassy in Ulaanbaatar and other dialogue with the Government of Mongolia we look forward to developing co-operation further on this and other international priorities.

Outreach Events

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which cities and towns in the UK senior officials from his Department have visited as part of the PREVENT initiative; how such towns and cities were selected; which senior officials took part in each visit; when each visit took place; how much each visit cost; how many people attended each event; how attendees were selected; and if he will make a statement. [299565]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Violent extremists use misconceptions about foreign policy as a way to radicalise vulnerable young people in the UK. We have a programme of outreach to Muslim communities around the UK by Ministers and senior officials to discuss foreign policy issues and challenge extremists' distortions of British foreign policy.

During the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Leadership Week (when Heads of Mission return to London) in March this year, the following outreach events took place:

9 March: Paul Johnston, Director for International Security, visited Glasgow

23 March: Robert Chatterton Dickson, Head of Counter Terrorism Department, visited Tower Hamlets

24 March: Richard Makepeace, HMA[1] Jerusalem, gave a foreign policy briefing on Gaza to key Muslim stakeholders

26 March: James Watt, HMA[1] Amman, visited north London

26 March: Martin Hatfield, HMA[1] Indonesia, visited Luton

26 March: William Patey, HMA[1] Riyadh, visited Oxford

26 March: Rob Macaire, HC[2] Nairobi and John Marshall, DHM[3] Addis Ababa visited Tower Hamlets

26 March: Robert Brinkley, HC[2] Islamabad, and Stuart Eldon, Permanent Representative North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) visited Birmingham

26 March: Chris O'Connor, HMA[1] Tunis, visited Reading

26 March: Andrew Henderson, HMA[1] Algiers, visited Islington

27 March: Dominic Asquith, HMA[1] Cairo, visited Ealing

27 March: Nick Baird, HMA[1] Ankara, visited Nottingham

27 March: Simon Collis, HMA[1] Damascus, visited Sheffield

27 March: Christopher Prentice, HMA[1] Baghdad, visited Brent

27 March: Paul Madden, HC[2] Singapore, visited Woking Mosque

Following on from this, outreach events to date have been:

28 May: Steven Evans, HC[2] Bangladesh visited Bangladeshi communities in Brick Lane and Tower Hamlets

3 June: Stuart Eldon, Perm Rep NATO took part in a Q and A discussion with the forum Open Discussions in London

15 July: William Patey, HMA[1] Riyadh visited Redbridge

16 July: Robert Brinkley, HC[2] Islamabad visited Derby

17 August: Adam Thomson, HC[2] Islamabad designate, visited Glasgow

24 August: Adam Thomson, HC[2] Islamabad designate visited Birmingham

27 August: Adam Thomson, HC[2] Islamabad designate, visited Bradford

15 September: William Patey, HMA[1] Riyadh visited Edinburgh

15 September: Sir Peter Ricketts, PUS[4], hosted an Iftar in Brick Lane

24 September: Christopher Prentice, HMA[1] Baghdad, visited High Wycombe

9 October: Sir Peter Ricketts, PUS[4], visited Edinburgh

12 October: Tim Morris, HMA[1] Rabat, visited North West London

We work with local authorities, other Government Departments and community organisations to reach as wide an audience as possible. In most cases, local authorities approach us when they have established there is appetite for outreach in their areas. We do not select attendees and attendance numbers vary significantly from event to event.

The cost of events has ranged from £0 to £1,500, which includes venue hire, catering and travel costs for officials.

Planned outreach events for the coming months will take place in Lambeth, Kirklees, Birmingham and Manchester. There will also be an inward visit to the FCO by young Muslim students from Reading.

As with past events, the costs will range from £0 to £1,000

[1] HMA = Her Majesty's Ambassador

[2] HC = High Commissioner

[3] DHM = Deputy Head of Mission

[4] PUS = Permanent Under Secretary

Overseas Trade: Corruption

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has received representations from the government of *(a)* South Africa, *(b)* the Czech Republic and *(c)* Tanzania on allegations of corruption in those countries by British companies or individuals. [299679]

Chris Bryant: We have not received any representations by the Government of South Africa, the Government of Tanzania or the Government of the Czech Republic concerning allegations of corruption in those countries by British companies or individuals.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1153W, on trade unions, what the function of the Trade Union Secretariat (TUS) is; and whether the TUS may engage in political activity related to trade union representation. [299335]

Chris Bryant: The Trade Union Side (TUS) Secretariat represents the staff side of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Departmental Whitley Council. It co-ordinates the views of constituent trade unions and members recognised by the FCO (Prospect, the Diplomatic Service Association and Public and Commercial Services union). It leads, representing the views of the constituent trade unions, on behalf of staff in formal and informal negotiations and consultations with FCO Management on a variety of issues, including pay, terms and conditions of employment, recruitment, appraisals and promotions, redundancy, organisational change, diversity, equality and health and safety.

The TUS would not normally engage in political activities as such. While members of the TUS Secretariat may attend or be involved in meetings which have a political dimension, political activities such as lobbying would normally be done by the constituent trade unions on behalf of their members. Any political activities are undertaken by individual unions with political funds, and are not within the remit of the TUS.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will seek a report from the UK ambassador in Rabat on allegations of repression by Moroccan forces in September in Boujdour, Aaiun and Smra in Western Sahara. [299306]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is aware of allegations made by the Moroccan Association for Human Rights regarding incidents in Layoune and Boujdour in September 2009.

Our ambassador in Rabat and his staff regularly meet with representatives from human rights non-governmental organisations and discuss a range of issues. The Government take allegations of human rights violations in Morocco seriously and, along with EU colleagues in Rabat, raise individual cases with the Moroccan authorities as appropriate.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1GOAL

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had about the GCE-FIFA 2010 Word Cup initiative 1GOAL. [298334]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is very supportive of the FIFA 1GOAL campaign, and the role it will play in moving towards MDG 2—achieving universal primary education. DFID is working closely with the Global Campaign for Education to help deliver the initiative around the world and has contributed £1 million this financial year for this purpose.

Most recently, on 6 October, Douglas Alexander, the Secretary of State for International Development, attended the Global Leaders' launch, at which my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister spoke alongside other supporters including South Africa President Zuma, FIFA President Sepp Blatter and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon.

Afghan Action: Finance

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has allocated to the organisation Afghan Action in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [299866]

Mr. Michael Foster: Afghan Action was awarded a grant of £225,000 in 2005 from the Department for International Development (DFID) following an application to the Business Linkages Challenge Fund. No further payments have been made.

The grant was awarded to help Afghan Action cover start-up costs and develop a viable carpet business, designed to provide training and employment for local people in Kabul. By August 2005, 75 people had been employed and 30 people trained in their own carpet-making workshop.

Africa: HIV Infection

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps he has taken to support community-based HIV campaigns in Africa. [298339]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) provides support to community-based organisations in several places:

> In Zimbabwe, we and other donors are jointly providing £23 million in predictable funding for over 130 community-based organisations, which will reach over 180,000 orphans and other vulnerable children.
>
> In the Democratic Republic of Congo, we have made a £4.5 million grant to Christian Aid to support community-based care for HIV sufferers.
>
> In Kenya, we are providing £10 million over five years to the African Medical and Research Foundation to develop the capacity of local NGOs to prevent and treat HIV.

We also support civil society via our funding to Governments. In Malawi, we contribute some £14 million to the national response to HIV/AIDs which supports more than 1,000 community-based organisations, while in Nigeria a significant proportion of the £100 million that we have committed for the period 2009-14 is going to civil society groups particularly in areas such as home-based care and support to vulnerable groups and orphans.

A major part of UK HIV/AIDS funding is channelled through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) to which we have committed £1 billion for the period 2008-15. 12 per cent. of the fund's grants in Africa go to civil society organisations.

Burma: Overseas Aid

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much cross-border humanitarian assistance his Department plans to provide for eastern Burma in 2010; and how much was provided in 2009. [298465]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 29 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 572W, to the hon. Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr. Mitchell).

Chars Livelihoods Programme

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for what reasons his Department signed a second contract with Maxwell Stamp plc in respect of the Chars Livelihoods Programme before undertaking a financial audit of its first contract with that company; and if he will make a statement. [300082]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Maxwell Stamp plc was awarded a contract to design and, subject to the approval of that design, implement the second phase of the Chars Livelihoods Programme following an open, competitive tendering process that followed European Union directives.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to audit the *(a)* impact and *(b)* other claims made by Maxwell Stamp plc in respect of its work for the Chars Livelihoods Programme. [300083]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: All projects funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) are subject to an annual review to assess progress and measure results.

Financial claims are checked against the contract terms and physical progress, in line with DFID's standard procedures.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has carried out an independent audit of the contract signed by his Department and Maxwell Stamp plc in 2004 in respect of management services for the Chars Livelihoods Programme in Bangladesh. [300084]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development carries out annual independent audits of Maxwell Stamp plc's spending in Bangladesh on the Chars Livelihoods Programme.

Christmas

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in the last 12 months. [299266]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) spent £1,567 + VAT on Christmas cards in the last 12 months.

Under DFID rules, no funds are spent on staff Christmas parties or decorations.

Crimes of Violence: Females

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department plans to allocate in 2009-10 to tackling violence against women, broken down by recipient country. [299915]

Mr. Michael Foster: It is not possible to calculate a figure for funding commitments in 2009-10 to tackling violence against women, broken down by recipient country. Gender-based violence is addressed through many different approaches and programmes, according to country context and whether partners are focusing on preventing violence against women or responding to it.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2009. [299559]

Mr. Michael Foster: The percentage of UK invoices paid within 10 days by the Department for International Development is as follows:

(a) 91 per cent. in September; and

(b) 95 per cent. in October.

Departmental contracts

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on following established best practice in the management of tendering exercises. [299956]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: For all tenders for goods and services over the EU threshold the Department for International Development (DFID) follows the EU directives, as enshrined in UK Public Contract Regulations 2006.

For all tenders under the threshold DFID follows established best practice, in line with Office of Government Commerce guidance.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the use of independent audits in the management of grants and contracts for which his Department is responsible. [299957]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Where grants are provided, the Department for International Development (DFID) requires evidence about the use of funds through the receipt of annual audited accounts or through a special audited statement. Where DFID itself buys goods and services, no additional audit evidence is required but the invoices, supporting vouchers and documentation associated with the payment is used to confirm what the money has been spent on.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department's information assurance procedures have been subject to an independent audit. [299379]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development has been independently audited as mandated by the Cabinet Secretary's report into data handling processes across Government and the Security Policy Framework. All audits are in line with international standard ISO/IEC 27001:2005 for Information Security Management Systems, against which DFID has been certified.

Departmental ICT

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which organisations his Department has had exclusivity agreements with in respect of information technology *(a)* hardware and *(b)* software in each of the last five years; how many such agreements were breached in each year; and what the cost to his Department was of each breach. [298764]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development has had no exclusive agreements in relation to information technology hardware or software in the past five years.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many established posts there were at each grade in his Department's offices in East Kilbride in each of the last five years. [298423]

Mr. Michael Foster: The numbers of established posts, by job grade, in the Department for International Development's (DFID's) East Kilbride office, for each year from 2005 to 2009, are shown in the following table:

Number

	31 March				
Job Grade	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
SCS	3	5	6	8	10
A1	21	27	31	29	32
A2	41	50	57	57	59
A2(L)	46	49	48	54	52
B1D	4	6	4	4	5
B1	96	97	104	102	108

Number

Job Grade	*31 March* 2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
B2	134	137	130	112	116
C1	155	145	131	99	82
C2	29	23	13	11	6
Total	529	539	524	476	470

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* staffing complement and *(b)* management structure is of his Department's Counter-Fraud Unit. [299954]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department's Counter-Fraud Unit has seven members of staff and is supplemented by external resources as required.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department and its agencies in 2008-09. [299283]

Mr. Michael Foster: We are unable to provide this information without incurring disproportionate cost.

All reimbursable expenses are made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with which providers his Department had a contract to provide postal services in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* between 1 January 2009 and 1 July 2009 and *(d)* since 1 July 2009. [299424]

Mr. Michael Foster: The only contracted postal service which the Department for International Development uses and has used throughout all the periods in question is a cross-Whitehall shared contract with TNT UK Ltd., which DFID uses for a direct delivery service between our two UK offices.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department on procurement under tender because the tender process had been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last 12 months. [299353]

Mr. Michael Foster: During the last 12 months the Department for International Development (DFID) has cancelled four tendered procurements prior to award of contract. DFID has made no payments to bidders in respect of nugatory work. The only costs are the staff resources we deployed on administering these processes. Records of these costs are not routinely disaggregated between each tender, and could not be calculated without disproportionate effort.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of the statistical datasets collected by his Department are published. [299665]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) publishes summary information on all its projects via its website. We are working on arrangements and a timetable for publishing further details of our projects. In doing so, we need to balance our commitment to transparency with the need to protect sensitive information, and the cost and practicality of publishing information in a usable format.

Further detail on individual UK aid programmes is provided to the Creditor Reporting System administered by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Development (OECD). The underpinning datasets for the UK and other donors are available from the OECD website.

All of this information contributes to the annual DFID publication "Statistics on International Development". This publication is published in accordance with the requirements set out in the 'Code of Practice for Official Statistics' and the 'National Statistician's Guidance on the Presentation and Publication of Official Statistics'.

Developing Countries

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had on the role of scientists in policy-making in developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [298810]

Mr. Michael Foster: The role of scientists in policy making has not been the subject of any recent separate discussions but has been reflected in discussions on a wide range of thematic policy and research issues and has been a key component of recent discussions in the lead-up to the Copenhagen Climate Conference. Increasing our support for building the capacity to undertake and use research within our developing country partners was a key commitment in the Research Strategy 2008-13 launched last year and available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Developing Countries: Childbirth

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's expenditure aimed at reducing the number of women dying in childbirth in developing countries. [299877]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) conducts an annual assessment of its progress towards key MDG targets at a country level based on international data. The assessment concentrates on progress in 22 developing countries where the UK's development assistance is mainly focused and where we expect to make the most impact.

The latest assessment was published in the 2008 Autumn Performance Report (copies of which are in the Parliamentary Library). A copy is available at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/aut-perf-report-08.pdf

The 2009 Performance Report is currently in preparation and will be laid before Parliament on 15 December 2009.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much UK funding was *(a)* allocated to and *(b)* spent on tackling HIV/AIDS in developing countries in each of the last five years. [299938]

Mr. Michael Foster: We pledged an ambitious target of £1.5 billion for AIDS related expenditure from 2005 to 2008.

Details on DFID's expenditure on HIV and AIDS are produced as follows.

DFID's estimated expenditure on HIV/AIDS activities

	HIV/AIDS Expenditure (£ millions)
2004-05	312.5
2005-06	429.8
2006-07	488.8
2007-08	523.2
2008-09	586.4

More information on DFID expenditure can be found in Statistics on International Development 2009, which is available on-line at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Developing Countries: Vaccination

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the UK's contribution to the International Finance Facility for Immunisation was in each of the last five years; what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the facility in preventing deaths; and if he will make a statement. [299944]

Mr. Michael Foster: In 2006 the UK committed £1.38 billion over 20 years to the International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm). All pledges to IFFIm are legally binding and are used to raise money from selling bonds on the international capital markets. So far the following payments have been made by the UK: 2007—£9,043,200, 2008—£16,848,900, 2009—£25,064,800.

IFFIm will be formally evaluated in 2011. Its funding aims to allow the vaccination of over 500 million people and has the potential to save 10 million lives. Funds raised by IFFIm are used by the GAVI Alliance (formerly the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation). Ongoing assessment by GAVI shows that the money provided by IFFIm has helped massively boost immunisation coverage and health service availability in the world's 72 poorest countries. Some of GAVI's achievements to date due to IFFIm funding have been: 194 million children in 32 countries immunised with life saving measles vaccine, the immunisation of more than 100 million children under the age of five against polio, helping poor countries target 26 million women with immunisation against maternal and neonatal tetanus, and yellow fever immunisation activities in 12 West African countries that will strengthen health systems and support vaccine security and affordability to prevent approximately 687,000 deaths between now and 2050.

East Africa: Education

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to increase the number of children receiving schooling in *(a)* Kenya and *(b)* Mozambique. [299946]

Mr. Thomas: The information is as follows.

(a) The Department for International Development (DFID) spends £11 million annually to support the Government of Kenya's Education Sector Support programme (KESSP) 2005 to 2010. Our funds are used to build classrooms, provide textbooks, train teachers and improve the way schools are managed. This year DFID has also provided an extra £5 million to improve water and sanitation facilities in 2,500 primary schools.

DFID's support in Kenya has contributed to a rise in enrolments in primary school from 7.6 million in 2005 to 8.6 million in 2008 and an increase in the proportion of children going on to secondary school from 56 per cent. to 68 per cent. over the same period. With the net enrolment rate currently at 92.5 per cent. (girls 90.5 per cent.), Kenya is on track to achieve Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 2 by 2015.

(b) In Mozambique DFID supports the education sector through Mozambique's Poverty Reduction Strategy, in which we invested £44 million in 2009-10, and by direct support to the education sector. DFID has a 10-year funding commitment of £45 million with the Government of Mozambique up to 2016. DFID funding contributed to Mozambique's success in increasing the primary net enrolment rate from 87.1 per cent. in 2006 (84 per cent. for girls) to 99.2 per cent. 2008 (96.2 per cent. for girls). This increased enrolment means that there are 729,000 more children in school now than there were in 2006.

We have also supported both Kenya and Mozambique to receive substantial funding from the global Education For All Fast Track Initiative, managed by the World Bank, to which DFID is a major donor.

Fraud

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on following established best practice in fraud investigations. [299943]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Fraud investigations are undertaken in accordance with professional standards and guidelines set by the Counter Fraud Professional Accreditation Board and other relevant professional bodies.

HIV Infection: Uganda

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of his Department's programme to reduce HIV/AIDS in Uganda; and if he will make a statement. [299945]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing £13.6 million towards a programme to help Uganda increase access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care. An independent review in June of this year found that the programme was strengthening the leadership role of the Uganda AIDS Commission, improving co-ordination amongst United Nations agencies and increasing service coverage by non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The independent reviewers concluded that the programme has been highly influential on the Ugandan response to the AIDS epidemic for a modest amount of funding.

The Civil Society Fund component, jointly funded by the United Kingdom, American, Danish and Irish Governments, has so far provided more than 120 grants to NGOs. This has resulted in (a) more than 1 million Ugandans benefiting from individual HIV services, including 46,000 orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs); (b) over 800,000 people being reached with prevention messages, and (c) 66,000 people receiving an HIV test and counselling.

India: Polio

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment has been made of the effectiveness of his Department's work to tackle polio in India. [299876]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports polio eradication in India though the Global Polio Eradication Programme (GPEP), to which the UK is the second largest bilateral contributor (£424 million to date).

In 2009, the World Health Organisation (WHO) carried out an independent evaluation of the GPEP, which found that the programme is well executed, has high coverage of the population and scrupulously implements recommendations from technical experts. In addition, the Expert Advisory Group on Polio convened by the World Health Organisation (WHO) has said that there is strong epidemiological and operational evidence that India is on track to eradicate the disease.

Intellectual Property

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on *(a)* the protection and *(b)* public availability of the intellectual property arising from programmes funded by his Department. [299939]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: All intellectual property produced by Crown Servants in the discharge of their duties is deemed to be property of the Crown.

For DFID funded programmes, the designation of intellectual property rights can differ according to individual contracts.

Kenya: Overseas Aid

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what recent discussions he has had on food shortages in northern Kenya; [298798]

(2) what recent steps he has taken to reduce food shortages in northern Kenya. [298795]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has had discussions with international partners on the current food shortages in Kenya and accepts the United Nations (UN) agencies and the Government of Kenya's recent assessment that almost 10 million people will be unable to access sufficient food.

DFID has provided £7.9 million this year to support food relief to the general population through the World Food Programme, and additional relief for acutely malnourished children through international non-governmental agencies. On 2 October we announced an additional £5 million allocation to help those most in need. We are also pressing the Government of Kenya to do all it can to respond to the needs of its people, and in the longer-term to address the root causes of Kenya's chronic food insecurity.

Malaria

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to improve standards of anti-malaria treatment in developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [299942]

Mr. Michael Foster: DFID's work in health aims to strengthen countries' health systems to deliver decent basic health care, including for malaria prevention, control and effective treatment. We look to the World Health Organisation to take the lead in setting and supporting countries to implement appropriate standards of anti-malaria treatment.

We have committed £1 billion of long-term funding over the period 2008-15 to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria to help countries get the malaria treatments they need. In addition we have committed £40 million to the Affordable Medicines Facility for Malaria (AMFm) that will help make highly effective ACT drugs available to poor people and postpone emergence of resistance. In helping displace ineffective monotherapy, the AMFm is an important element in our efforts to improve malaria treatment.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce *(a)* childhood diarrhoea and *(b)* diabetes in developing countries. [298335]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to improving health services in developing countries. 90 per cent. of diarrhoea cases can be prevented by increasing the availability of clean water and improving sanitation and hygiene. DFID has recently made a commitment to spend half of future UK direct support for developing countries on basic services. This includes a commitment to spend £1 billion on water, sanitation and hygiene in Africa over five years (2008-13) to ensure that up to 25 million additional people gain access to safe water and basic sanitation. DFID will also support at least 30 million more people to get access to improved sanitation and hygiene promotion in South Asia by 2011.

DFID also recognises the increasing importance of non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes and has committed £6 billion over the period 2008-15 to help developing countries strengthen their health systems to respond to all basic health needs. This support is aligned to the priorities identified by partner Governments in developing countries. In addition, at the UN high-level event in New York on 23 September 2009, the United Kingdom led the way in helping to secure a landmark £3.2 billion deal for more financing to improve health services across the developing world.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of his Department's funding to assist poorer countries investigate the effects of global warming has been spent in each year since its introduction. [299654]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports poorer countries to investigate the effects of climate change both directly through a portfolio of centrally managed research programmes and indirectly through our country programmes. Research is carried out by external agencies in both the UK and developing countries. Though it is difficult to disaggregate the amount spent in poorer countries, total previous and anticipated spending on this research is outlined in the table. DFID also provides substantial levels of funding through country programmes although we are unable to disaggregate the amount utilised specifically for this purpose.

Previous and anticipated spend

Financial year	*£ million*
2006-07	5.88
2007-08	8.75
2008-09	3.08
2009-10	9.8
2010-11	24.7
2011-12	29.7
2012-13	30.6

In our recent White Paper DFID has committed to invest £100 million in climate change research between 2008 and 2013. This will include bringing southern and northern institutions together to establish a Climate Change Knowledge Network (CCKN) to deliver policy advice and knowledge to over 60 developing countries.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has a policy on the prevention of nepotism in respect of the use of overseas development aid. [300085]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department's policy on conflicts of interest is set out in its standing procedures and reflects the terms of the civil service management code.

Overseas Aid: Poverty

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate his Department has made of the number of people taken out of poverty by UK foreign aid in each of the last five years. [299937]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development estimates that from 2007-08 it has helped to lift at least 3 million people permanently out of poverty every year.

Prior to 2007-08 we did not produce this estimate.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much and what percentage of all UK foreign aid was used for *(a)* poverty reduction and *(b)* other projects in each of the last five years. [299941]

Mr. Michael Foster: The 2002 International Development Act makes reducing poverty the core purpose of all UK aid.

Palm Oil: Sustainable Development

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) whether his Department was represented at the most recent Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil meeting; and if he will make a statement; [298526]

(2) when he last discussed the use of sustainable palm oil with *(a)* Ministerial colleagues, *(b)* representatives of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, *(c)* representatives of the palm oil industry, *(d)* representatives of environmental non-governmental organisations and *(e)* officials of other Government departments; and if he will make a statement. [298554]

Mr. Thomas: The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil annual meeting (2-4 November) was attended by a Government official from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) posted to the South East Asia region. FCO officials work closely with counterparts in the UK to represent wider Government interests and to keep policy makers informed of relevant developments abroad.

In the last month, Ministers from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for Energy and Climate Change have met with UK based businesses who are members of the RSPO and with international NGOs on forestry and palm oil. Engagement with these groups and other Governments will continue as the UK Government work to support sustainable production and consumption of palm oil.

Sudan: Humanitarian Aid

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much humanitarian aid his Department has provided for Darfur in each of the last five years. [299969]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not systematically disaggregate humanitarian aid by region within Sudan. Most of DFID's humanitarian funding is channelled through the UN's Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) or appeal funding to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). These funding channels combine DFID's money with other donors', and allocate resources to where they are needed most throughout the year. In order to allow flexibility to respond quickly where the needs are greatest, we do not earmark our contributions for specific regions.

DFID's humanitarian funding in Sudan is some £50 million in 2009, including £36 million through the Common Humanitarian Fund, £6 million to ICRC and the remainder delivered directly through NGOs.

Information on the Department for International Development's funding to Sudan is available in the publication Statistics on International Development 2007-08. This is available in the Library of the House and online at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/sid2008/release.asp.

Youth Volunteer Programme: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the funding for the youth volunteer programme has been spent in each year since its introduction. [299653]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department of International Development has spent the following amounts since the introduction of our youth volunteer programme, Platform2, in January 2008:

	£
January to December 2008	1,545,987.73
January to September 2009	2,354,827.47

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 12 November 2009

JUSTICE

Christmas

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on Christmas (i) cards, (ii) parties and (iii) decorations in the last 12 months. [299265]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is as follows.

(i) Christmas cards

The Ministry of Justice spent £1,695 on official Christmas cards in 2008. 3,800 printed cards were sent to the Department's stakeholders, and 400 more cards were sent out electronically. The official card was used by Ministers, MOJ headquarters and the Office for the Public Guardian.

The order for cards for 2009 has not yet commenced.

Other executive agencies made their own arrangements for Christmas cards. HM Courts Service and Tribunals Service did not produce official cards. Expenditure on Christmas cards by the National Offender Management Service is at local discretion. No central records of expenditure are held and details could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

(ii) Christmas parties

Secretary of State

I hosted one Christmas function in 2008. This was an event attended by approximately 50 members of the national media. The total cost of the function was £1,199.90 (excluding VAT). This expenditure included the provision of finger foods and beverages, and the cost of staffing and equipment.

I did not attend any Christmas functions arranged by the Ministry or its agencies other than the one I hosted above.

For officials at the Department and its agencies

The Department and its agencies do not fund Christmas parties for staff, although staff may personally contribute towards the cost of such an event.

(iii) Christmas decorations

The cost of Christmas trees for MOJ headquarters was £970 inclusive of VAT. The decorations from 2007 were re-used for 2008.

The information for agencies can be gathered only at a disproportionate cost. All four MOJ agencies (National Offender Management Service; HM Courts Service; Tribunals Service and Office of the Public Guardian) have regionalised structures. Each individual building orders their own trees and decorations.

Coroners: Armed forces

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the arrangements agreed between his Department and the Scottish Executive on the use of fatal accident inquiries into the deaths abroad of service personnel are to be applied retrospectively; and on what date such arrangements will take effect. [298624]

Bridget Prentice: The Coroners and Justice Act, which received Royal Assent today provides for the possibility of a Fatal Accident Inquiry (FAI) in Scotland into the deaths of service personnel who die abroad on active service or in training or preparation for it.

The arrangements will take effect once the Scottish Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) has made the necessary preparations for Fatal Accident Inquiries to be held into overseas deaths of service personnel. The UK Government will work with the COPFS to bring the new provisions into effect as soon as possible. Transitional provisions will be made to ensure that the arrangements can be in place ahead of the complete reform of the coroners' system, by April 2012, on which they are otherwise dependent.

It is possible that the provisions could be applied to deaths that have occurred before the provisions are implemented to meet the wishes of a bereaved family. I will write to my right hon. Friend on progress in this area and place a copy in the Library.

Departmental Air Travel

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many domestic flights within Great Britain officials from his Department made in 2008-09; and at what cost. [298253]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry has a contract with a travel management company for the booking of flights at the most economical rates available. The expenditure incurred by the Ministry on domestic flights within Great Britain via this travel management company in 2008-09 was £478,091. This consisted of 2,262 transactions, with a return flight counting as one transaction.

Exceptionally, some flights may have been purchased outside of the contract using the Government Procurement Card (GPC) or paid for by members of staff and reclaimed through expense claims. To determine the number and cost of domestic flights outside of the travel management contract would involve the disproportionate cost of scrutinising individual records held locally across the Department.

All travel bookings by Ministry of Justice staff members is completed in line with the published rules for official travel and subsistence within the staff handbook. The rules are in accordance with the guidelines set out in the 'Civil Service Management Code'. The Ministry's policy is that air travel should only be used where there is a cost advantage from savings of subsistence and official time, or if urgency justifies the additional cost.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many first-class flights were taken by each Minister in his Department in 2008-09; and what the *(a)* origin, *(b)* destination and *(c)* cost was of each such flight. [298749]

Mr. Straw: For the 2008-09 financial year, there was only one first-class flight taken from Mumbai to London, costing £2,040.50. This flight was taken by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, East (Bridget Prentice), who had to travel first class on the return leg of the journey owing to illness. All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the 'Ministerial Code'.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2009. [299549]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) is committed to achieving compliance with the Prime Minister's target of paying 90 per cent. of suppliers within 10 days where possible, and is a signatory to the prompt payment code. The MOJ's percentage of supplier invoices paid within 10 days for September and October 2009 exceeded the 90 per cent. target (September 2009 was 91.7 per cent., October 2009 was 92.2 per cent.). The value of invoices paid within the target for September and October totalled around £881 million.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what IT systems have been in development for use within his Department in the last five years; what the primary reason for the development of each system was; how much has been spent on the development of each system; and which systems have subsequently been *(a)* implemented, *(b)* terminated prior to implementation and *(c)* terminated following implementation. [290247]

Mr. Straw: Details of the IT systems developed since the Ministry of Justice was established in May 2007, together with reasons for the development, implementation date and cost, are listed as follows.

Project name	*Implementation date*	*Reason for development*	*Total cost*
Athena	April 2010	Business Change	£600,000
Computer Aided Facilities Management	November 2009	Operational Benefit	£2.1 million
Corporate Staff Rostering	December 2009	Operational Benefit	£14.1 million
HMPS Replacement Intranet	October 2009	Business Change	£3.9 million
Manage Interconnect (MINT)	December 2009	Infrastructure development	£500,000
NOMSnet	September 2008	Infrastructure development	£5.3 million
NOMSnet2	December 2009	Infrastructure development	£1.5 million
OASys 4.2	March 2008	Business Change	£8.5 million
OASys Interim Continuity	July 2008	Applications Maintenance	£600,000
Oracle Discrete Manufacturing	March 2009	Business Application	£600,000
OMNI Transformation	April 2010	Operational Benefit	£35.3 million
Perimeter Security	December 2008	Operational Benefit	£1.1 million
Phoenix	January 2009	Shared Service Development	£55.5 million
Shared Services Phoenix	March 2010	Shared Service Maintenance	£1.7 million
Infrastructure Projects			
Sharepoint	October 2009	Infrastructure	£600,000
VISOR	May 2008	Business Application	£8.1 million
WAN Upgrade	January 2009	Infrastructure development	£25.7 million

This table includes IT developments costing more than £500,000.

In addition, details follow of the National Offender Management Service's NOMIS programme.

NOMIS Programme, comprising the following projects

System	*Development reasons*	*Cost of development (up to March 2009)*	*Implemented*
C-NOMIS/Prison- NOMIS	C-NOMIS: The C- NOMIS project was intended to provide a single interactive record of offenders in England and Wales across the National Probation Service(NPS) and Her Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS). Prison-NOMIS: The work done on C-NOMIS has been used as the basis of Prison-, NOMIS. To replace the HMPS case management system, Local Inmate Database System (LIDS), with a single enhanced centralised system	The total C-NOMIS historic sunk costs' up to December 2007 was £160.7 million. This figure included the costs for requirements definition, application development, testing, implementation and infrastructure. At that time, development costs were not separately identified. Prison-NOMIS £34.5 million	Implementation of Prison-NOMIS commenced May2009, expected to complete summer 2010
Probation Case Management System	To replace a variety of NPS systems with a centralised version based on a redevelopment of Delius	£1.3 million	Provisional commencement subject to confirmation
Offender Assessment System-Replacement	To replace the existing Offender Assessment Systems, used by HMPS and NPS, with an improved, single and centralised system	£1.3 million	Implementation expected to commence in 2011

NOMIS Programme, comprising the following projects

System	*Development reasons*	*Cost of development (up to March 2009)*	*Implemented*
Data Share System	To enable staff in both organisations to share core information required to support Offender Management	£9.5 million	Implementation expected to commence in 2010

[1] Includes £15.6 million of expenditure subsequently classified as an "impairment". The £15.6 million relates to the National Audit Office estimate of the costs incurred on the Probation element in C-NOMIS that would not transfer to Prison-NOMIS.

Responsibility for IT systems prior to May 2007 rested in three Departments and it has not been possible to gather information for the earlier years without incurring disproportionate cost. However, available records identify two IT projects, which commenced in the former Department for Constitutional Affairs, which were subsequently terminated. Details are as follows:

(1) In November 2008, following a review by Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) Board, the Electronic Filing and Document Management programme, which included plans for future investment in ICT, was cancelled. The review concluded that the Electronic Filing and Document Management programme was not affordable. The costs incurred by the programme from commencement of the programme in August 2005 to its closure in November 2008 were £5.9 million.

(2) The National Enforcement Tracker System (NETS) project was cancelled in August 2007 following a detailed review which highlighted that the cost and scope of the project no longer provided value for money or met current business requirements. Expenditure to closure of the project was £4.3 million. This sum was reported in accordance with HMT accounting rules.

No other abandoned IT projects have been identified for this period from available records.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with which organisations his Department has had exclusivity agreements for information technology *(a)* hardware and *(b)* software in each of the last five years; how many such agreements have been breached in each year; and what the cost to his Department was of each breach. [299692]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice had one exclusivity agreement with regard to information technology (hardware or software) in the five-year period covered by this question.

A contract awarded to EDS Ltd. in 1996 for hardware and software (the LOCCS Local Offices and County Courts contract) included an exclusivity provision that related to the award of future work. There has been no breach of the exclusivity terms of that contract, and no costs of breach incurred by the Ministry. The contract was live in the five-year period, but has now expired.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department and its agencies in 2008-09. [299281]

Mr. Straw: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with which providers *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies had a contract to provide postal services in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, (iii) between 1 January 2009 and 1 July 2009 and (iv) since 1 July 2009. [299431]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice currently has no formal contracts for postal services. However, it has a number of local agreements with both Royal Mail and DX limited. We recognise that the absence of established contracts is not satisfactory and are in the process of completing a further competition against the Buying Solutions Postal Framework. It is expected that we will have a formal contract in place by January 2010.

Driving Offences: Reading East and Berkshire

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* hit and run accidents, *(b)* hit and run accidents in which the driver did not have insurance and *(c)* hit and run drivers taken to court there were in Reading East constituency in each of the last five years. [299543]

Claire Ward: Data on the number of reported hit and run personal injury road accidents in Berkshire and Reading East constituency provided by the Department for Transport (DfT) from 1999 to 2008 can be viewed in Table 1. The DfT do not collect information centrally on uninsured drivers involved in hit and run accidents.

Information available on the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database cannot identify those defendants, proceeded against for offences of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks, that have been involved in a hit and run accident.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for the offence of 'failing to stop after an accident' in Thames Valley Police Force Area, from 1998 to 2007 (latest available) are given in Table 2.

Court proceedings data are not available at parliamentary constituency level, therefore information is given for the Thames Valley police force area in which the Reading East constituency is located.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Table 1: The number of reported hit and run personal injury road accidents in Berkshire and the Reading East parliamentary constituency area, from 1999 to 2008

		Number
	Berkshire	*Reading East*[1]
1999	255	37
2000	321	48
2001	288	51
2002	326	52
2003	269	41
2004	249	33
2005	237	35
2006	252	35
2007	249	34
2008	323	59

[1] Based on 2004 Parliamentary Constituency boundaries.

Source:

Department for Transport.

Table 2: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for the offence of failing to stop after an accident[1, 2, 3] in the Thames Valley police force area, from 2003 to 2007[4, 5]

Offence description	*Statute*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Failing to stop after accident	Road Traffic Act 1988 S. 170(4)	199	208	187	167	164

[1] Not all hit and run incidents are pursued through the courts—minor ones in particular may not involve police attendance and may not be reported to the police by the injured party.

[2] "Hit and run" usually refers to a collision in which someone was injured or killed. The offence of failure to stop is also committed if there has only been damage but such incidents cannot be distinguished from those involving injury or death.

[3] A person involved in a hit and run incident may be convicted of a more serious offence such as dangerous driving.

[4] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many convictions for *(a)* drink-driving and *(b)* each other motoring offence resulted in a custodial sentence in (i) Reading East constituency and (ii) Berkshire in each of the last 10 years; [299542]

(2) how many people in Reading East constituency have been disqualified from driving as a result of *(a)* drink-driving, *(b)* speeding and *(c)* dangerous or reckless driving since 1999. [299544]

Claire Ward: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Elections: Costs

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2251-2W, on elections: costs, in what cases expenditure by hon. Members, other than from parliamentary allowances, is included in the new pre-candidacy election spending limit; and whether expenditure by constituency offices is counted towards that limit. [299325]

Mr. Straw: Expenditure by hon. Members who intend to stand at the forthcoming general election, other than from Parliamentary allowances, will be regulated by the pre-candidacy election spending limit where it is the case that it satisfies the three conditions clearly set out in the previous answer given by my right hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Justice, 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2252-3W. Where expenditure by hon. Members' constituency offices is in connection with hon. Members' parliamentary duties only, that would not normally be regarded as being 'for electoral purposes'. Such expenditure should not, therefore, be counted against the pre-candidacy expenditure limit.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what types of expenditure will be included in the new pre-candidacy election spending limits; and how expenditure will be calculated against the limits if it partially or wholly promotes local government candidates for a party. [299457]

Mr. Straw: The types of expenditure which will be regulated by the new pre-candidacy election spending limit, as introduced by section 21 of the Political Parties and Elections Act 2009, are identical to the types of expenditure that are regulated by the pre-existing candidate spending limit. These are listed in Part 1 of Schedule 4A to the Representation of the People Act 1983.

Expenditure will only be regulated by the pre-candidacy spending limit if it is for the purposes of the candidate's election at the following general election. Expenditure which promotes local government candidates for a party would therefore not be counted against the pre-candidacy spending limit for the general election. Where an item of expenditure promotes both the candidate for the following general election and local government candidates for a party, an appropriate fraction of the costs should be recorded against the pre-candidacy expenditure limit for the general election.

The Electoral Commission has published detailed draft guidance on its website on candidate election expenses at the forthcoming election, and has stated that it will issue final guidance in December 2009. The Commission's draft guidance includes detailed advice on splitting costs between different campaigns. Its guidance states that the guiding principle when splitting costs is that a candidate

> "should make an honest assessment on the facts of the proportion of the costs that can be attributed fairly to (his/her) election expenses—that is, to promoting or procuring (his/her) election during the regulated period."

Foreigners: Prisoners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners were ineligible for deportation due to interference with their family life in the last three years. [295997]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

As the Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency indicated in her letter to the Home Affairs Committee on 19 October (copies available in the Library of both Houses), management information in this area is particularly complex and, as such, identifying the exact number of foreign nationals who became ineligible for deportation due to interference with their family life in any given year would necessitate a review of every case file for each year. This would incur a disproportionate cost.

The Chief Executive will continue to update the Committee as further data become available.

Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many applications were received for the position of *(a)* chairperson and *(b)* board member of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority; how many such applicants were shortlisted; and when he expects further appointments of board members to be made; [299620]

(2) what the cost to date has been of establishing the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA), including preparation and publication of the report by the Committee on Standards in Public Life on hon. Members' expenses and allowances and the appointments to the IPSA board made to date. [299022]

Mr. Straw: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Intellectual Property: Internet

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions there have been for offences of internet piracy in each of the last five years. [299539]

Claire Ward: Information showing the number of defendants found guilty for offences under the 1988 Copyright, Patents & Designs Act in England & Wales from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

Section 107 of that Act contains a number of offences relating to, for example, the making, importing or distributing of illicit recordings. It is not, however, possible to distinguish between convictions for the offence of online piracy and other forms of piracy, such as the offence of optical media piracy.

Copying from one media to another becomes a criminal offence under Section 107 only if it is conducted on a scale prejudicial to the interests of the legitimate rights holder, or in the course of business.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences under section 107 of the 1988 Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, England & Wales 2003 to 2007[1, 2]

Offence	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Makes, imports or distributes illicit recordings. Makes for sale or hire, imports possesses or distributes articles which infringes copyright[3]	40	44	85	109	132
Other offences[4]	37	39	55	88	169
Person infringes copyright in a work by communicating the work to the public[5]	[6]—	6	13	10	30
Total	77	89	153	207	331

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The Ministry of Justice cannot separate offences relating to Section 107 from those under section 198.

[4] The Ministry of Justice cannot separate offences relating to Section 107 from those under other sections of the Act. Statutes covered by this offence are as follows:
Section 107(1)(c), (1)(d)(i)(ii) and (iii) Section 107(2)(a), (2)(b), (3)(a) and 3(b)
Section 198(1)(c), (1)(d)(i), (ii) and (iii) Section 198 (2)(a) and (b)
Section 201(1)
Section 276 (1)(a) and (b) Section 276 (2)(a) and (b) Section 276 (3)(a) and (b)
Section 279 (3)
Section 297(1)

[5] Includes S.107 2A & 4A as added by Copyright & Related Rights Regulations Reg. 26 (1).

[6] Not applicable.

Source:
Evidence & Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been levied in fines from those convicted of offences related to internet piracy in each of the last five years. [299536]

Bridget Prentice: Her Majesty's Court Service systems do not identify the value of fines collected for specific offences and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The total value of all financial penalties collected in England and Wales for the last five years is as follows:

	£
2004-05	212,505,550
2005-06	233,332,326
2006-07	244,555,540
2007-08	256,117,662
2008-09	246,519,704

Interpreters: Finance

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent by *(a)* HM Courts Service and *(b)* his Department in (i) England and Wales and (ii) Essex on interpreters for (A) suspects, (B) charged individuals and (C) victims of crime who are unable to speak English in each of the last three years. [296937]

Bridget Prentice: The information to answer this question is still being collated and verified. I will write to the hon. Member once this process is complete, before Christmas.

Joint Advisory Committee for Qualifications Approval: Freedom of Information

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will designate the Joint Advisory Committee for Qualifications Approval as a public authority under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [299529]

Mr. Wills: The Joint Advisory Committee for Qualifications Approval (JACQA) could be designated as a public authority under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) by means of a section 5 order. The JACQA was not nominated for inclusion in an initial section 5 order during the Government's consultation on this in 2007 (the JACQA was not established until 2008). However, Government are keeping the possibility of further section 5 orders under review and would consider the inclusion of JACQA in a subsequent order as appropriate.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the timetable is for the commencement of *(a)* new reporting and recording thresholds for donations and *(b)* section 17 of the Political Parties and Elections Act 2009. [299386]

Mr. Straw: My right hon. Friend the member for Swindon North wrote to party leaders and representatives of parties with more than two MPs at Westminster on 14 September advising them of the timetable for commencement of the new thresholds for reporting and recording donations and loans in Section 20 of the Political Parties and Elections Act 2009 ("the 2009 Act"). We intend that commencement will take place in a timescale that brings the limits into force on 1 January 2010.

Section 17 of the 2009 Act is consequential on Section 15. Taken together, these sections enable holders of elective office to appoint compliance officers to share with them the responsibility for complying with the controls on donations and loans in Schedule 7 and Schedule 7A of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. I intend to commence those provisions so that they come into effect from 1 January 2010.

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders were transferred *(a)* from HM Prison Pentonville to HM Prison Wandsworth and *(b)* from HM Prison Wandsworth to HM Prison Pentonville in each of the last 24 months. [296024]

Mr. Straw: Complete information is not held centrally. Transfers can be carried out by different methods according to the urgency and nature of the transfers, and are recorded in different ways. On 20 October, in response to the hon. Member's urgent question, *Official Report*, column 777, I announced that Her Majesty's chief inspector of prisons would work with the Ministry of Justice's director of analytical services to investigate whether the temporary transfer of prisoners prior to inspections has occurred in other prisons. Following the completion of this review of transfers prior to inspections, I will write to the hon. Member.

Prison Sentences

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people from Northern Ireland are serving sentences in prisons in England and Wales. [298897]

Claire Ward: Information on the nationality of prisoners, rather than their place of birth is collected on the Prison Service IT system. As such, any prisoner from Northern Ireland is recorded as British.

To obtain the information would require a manual search of the records of around 61,000 sentenced British prisoners which would be required to establish if they were originally from Northern Ireland at a disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Contracts For Services

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which prisons have been market tested; and how much it has cost to market test prisons to date. [299741]

Maria Eagle: The following prisons were market tested between 1992 and 2001: Blakenhurst, Brixton, Buckley Hall, Doncaster, Manchester and the Wolds.

The cost of putting together the public sector bid for these prisons was in a range between £250,000 and £350,000 per prison. There are other administrative and procurement costs which cannot now be identified separately. Experience has shown that the costs of market tests are significantly outweighed by the efficiency savings that the market test process identifies.

The competition for five prisons, as originally announced on 27 April 2009 by my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw), will commence shortly. Two prisons—Birmingham and Wellingborough—will be market tested during this exercise.

Prisons: Costs

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the percentage change in the operational costs of HM Prison Garth was in each of the last five years; and how many *(a)* prisoners and *(b)* prison officers there were at HM Prison Garth in each such year. [299858]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is shown in the following table.

	Prison officers	*Prisoners*	*Year on year costs Change (percentage)*
2005-06	187	667	—
2006-07	236	667	6.3
2007-08	245	667 (847)	24.5
2008-09	240	847	3.1
2009-10	[1]233	847	0.1

[1] 31 October 2009

Prisons: Inspections

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 53-54WS, on temporary transfer of prisoners prior to inspection, for what reason the then Governor of HM Prison Wandsworth has not been either *(a)* suspended or *(b)* placed on detached or alternative duties under Prison Service Order 8460 in respect of the allegations made; and if he will make a statement. [298934]

Mr. Straw: The Chief Operating Officer of NOMS carefully considered whether staff should be suspended in advance of any disciplinary hearings. In doing so he followed the principles set out in the Code of Conduct and Discipline and considered the risks to due process and to the Agency should individuals remain in post. It would not be appropriate to comment on decisions made in individual cases.

Prisons: Manpower

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison staff are employed by contracted private companies; and whether these prison officers have personal protective equipment of *(a)* extendable batons and *(b)* mace spray. [299742]

Claire Ward: NOMS does not collate centrally numbers of staff employed by prison establishments which are operated by contracted private companies. I will write to the hon. member with this information as soon as it has been collected.

Prison custody officers working in private contracted prisons do not routinely carry extendable batons. Private contractor staff who participate in the national response to serious disorder in prisons (Tornado) are trained and issued with side-arm batons for use only as part of any Tornado intervention. Mace spray is not used within public or private prisons in England and Wales. PAVA spray (Pelargonic Acid Vanillylamide) is an advanced incapacitant spray which may be deployed within prisons; however, it is not routinely carried or stored within prisons and has been used only six times in the last four years. PAVA is considered to be the safest incapacitant available for anyone who may come into contact with it. The use of PAVA is authorised by a senior prison service manager acting as gold commander during serious incidents of disorder in public or private contracted prisons. It may only be used in these circumstances by selected and highly trained staff from the central Prison Service National Tactical Response Group as such, staff in contracted private prisons do not use PAVA.

Prisons: Mother and Baby Units

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many babies were born to mothers in prison in each month of *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [295825]

Maria Eagle: Information on, and the number of babies born to mothers during a custodial sentence, is not collected centrally. This could be provided by examining each individual's record, which would be only at disproportionate cost.

Probation: National Offender Management Service

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will announce the planned *(a)* Probation Service and *(b)* National Offender Management Service budgets for each (i) probation area and (ii) probation trust in (A) 2010-11 and (B) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [297594]

Maria Eagle: No budgets are set outside of the current comprehensive spending review period, hence there is no information available on the announcement of the 2011-12 budgets. The 2010-11 budget for probation was announced on 29 October by the Secretary of State for Justice as £870 million. This shows an increase on indicative budgets issued for planning purposes of £26 million. The allocation for each probation area and trust will be agreed with the relevant Director of Offender Management before the end of December.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on the *(a)* Probation Service and *(b)* National Offender Management Service in each probation area in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) each of the previous five years; and if he will make a statement. [297595]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) was created as an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice in April 2008 with the goal of helping Prison and Probation services work together to manage offenders throughout their sentences by providing end to end offender management.

NOMS provides funding for Probation Services for England and Wales.

(a) The total figures for the Probation Service are as shown in table 1.

Table 1: Expenditure on the Probation Service

Financial year	*£ million*
2009-10	[1]894
2008-09	[2]897
2007-08	[3]845.3
2006-07	[3]807.1
2005-06	[3]770.2
2004-05	[3]687.0

[1] Budget
[2] Provisional expenditure
[3] Expenditure

The probation accounts for 2008-09 have not yet been finalised, as a result it is not possible to provide figures by probation area. Probation budget figures have been provided for 2009-10 because the financial year does not end until 31 March 2010. The expenditure by the Probation Service in each of the 42 probation areas for the financial years 2004-05 to 2007-08 is shown in table 3.

(b) In addition to funding Probation Services NOMS also funds Custodial Services in England and Wales for both public sector and contractually run prisons, and other associated contracts such as Prisoner Escort and Custody Services and Electronic Monitoring. However, NOMS does not break down all its activities by probation area. The expenditure figures (excluding probation) for the financial years 2004-05 to 2008-09 have been provided in table 2. NOMS budget figure (excluding probation) for 2009-10 has also been provided.

Table 2: NOMS expenditure (excluding probation)

Financial year	*£ million*
2009-10	[1]3,636
2008-09	[2,3]4,047
2007-08	[2]3,877
2006-07	[2]3,551
2005-06	[2]3,264

Table 2: NOMS expenditure (excluding probation)

Financial year	*£ million*
2004-05	[2]2,993

[1] Budget

[2] Expenditure

[3] The NOMS expenditure in 2008-09 of £4,046,897,000 includes an impairment charge of £514.1 million comprising £498.5 million for revaluation of land and buildings and £15.6 million for the rescoping of the NOMIS project.

Note:

The National Offender Management Service, an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), was established from the 1 April 2008. The figures before this date relate to the old NOMS organisation and include functions that were transferred to the MOJ, including the Youth Justice Board, from the 1 April 2008.

Table 3: National Probation Service—expenditure by Probation Board

£000

	2007-2008	*2006-2007*	*2005-2006*	*2004-2005*
Avon and Somerset	21,237	19,317	17,502	16,859
Bedfordshire	8,566	8,615	8,244	7,086
Cambridgeshire	9,417	9,130	8,800	7,430
Cheshire	13,499	14,733	14,878	12,023
Cumbria	8,368	8,186	7,374	6,496
Derbyshire	13,412	12,738	11,907	11,158
Devon and Cornwall	20,685	18,258	17,683	15,600
Dorset	8,731	8,847	8,060	7,367
Durham	10,671	9,621	9,561	8,549
Essex	19,793	18,081	17,227	16,178
Gloucestershire	7,262	6,892	6,460	5,838
Hampshire	24,836	22,207	21,336	20,032
Hertfordshire	10,930	9,982	9,421	8,092
Kent	20,809	19,795	18,734	16,401
Lancashire	23,486	21,041	20,175	19,327
Lincolnshire	8,878	8,683	8,257	7,178
Norfolk	10,825	10,245	10,187	8,420
Northamptonshire	9,144	8,554	7,753	6,958
North Yorkshire	9,992	8,908	8,511	7,623
Nottinghamshire	18,434	18,219	16,590	14,932
Staffordshire	15,986	15,373	14,521	12,807
Suffolk	8,897	8,629	8,229	6,981
Surrey	10,490	9,792	9,507	8,186
Sussex	16,563	16,305	15,305	13,183
Teesside	13,858	12,780	11,856	10,705
Thames Valley	24,756	23,501	23,218	20,133
Warwickshire	7,071	6,973	6,467	5,728
Wiltshire	7,486	7,458	7,056	5,769
Greater Manchester	47,513	47,384	46,374	41,850
Northumbria	26,488	24,463	23,582	22,559
South Yorkshire	24,312	23,688	22,481	21,149
West Midlands	55,973	53,141	49,506	45,753
West Yorkshire	39,429	37,358	35,083	33,595
London	135,317	134,882	130,657	108,617
Gwent	11,219	10,683	9,553	8,608
North Wales	12,097	11,495	10,710	9,745
Humberside	15,995	15,779	14,796	12,778
Leicestershire	13,846	13,103	12,839	11,394
West Mercia	15,459	13,270	12,985	11,754
Merseyside	27,704	27,652	26,650	24,881
Dyfed Powys	8,305	8,138	7,577	6,462
South Wales	27,603	23,175	22,544	20,619
Total	845,341	807,074	770,236	686,964

Probation: Huddersfield

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will visit the Huddersfield probation service office to *(a)* meet frontline probation personnel and *(b)* discuss staffing levels. [298389]

Mr. Straw: My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Prisons (Maria Eagle) or I will try to find a suitable time to visit Huddersfield probation service office. I am also happy to meet my hon. Friend about the matter.

Prosecutions

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the prosecution rate was in each criminal justice area in each year since 1997. [295909]

Mr. Straw: Information is not available in the form requested. The police 'recorded crime' data collected by the Home Office are based on the number of crimes recorded in each financial year. As the hon. and learned Member is aware, improvements in the collection and coverage of crime data led to an artificial increase of 14 per cent. in recorded crime in 1998. It is estimated that the effect of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002 caused a further increase of 10 per cent. in total recorded crime in its first year. Recorded crime data before 2002 are therefore not comparable with that from 2002-03 onwards. The British Crime Survey was not affected by the changes and its data are comparable year on year, but this has estimates of total crime, including crime not reported to or recorded by the police, and which therefore could not have been prosecuted.

Shoplifting: Convictions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions there were for offences related to shoplifting in the last 12 months. [299782]

Mr. Straw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 142W.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will issue guidance to local authorities to encourage the allocation of more land for allotments. [299609]

Mr. Ian Austin: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Children In Care

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities in England and Wales have contracted out their provision for care leavers. [295828]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Christmas functions arranged by his Department and its agencies *(a)* the then Secretary of State, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* officials of its agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2008; what the cost to the public purse was; and if he will make a statement. [295454]

Barbara Follett: My right hon. Friend the former Secretary of State, attended one Christmas function in 2008. She also hosted one Christmas function at a cost of £330.60. The other information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on Christmas (i) cards, (ii) parties and (iii) decorations in the last 12 months. [299274]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department *(a)* and its agencies *(b)* have spent the following on Christmas cards, parties and decorations in the last 12 months:

£

	(i) Cards	*(ii) Parties*	*(iii) Decorations*
Communities and Local Government	2,630.82	0	1,036.80
Fire Service College	796.56	0	0
Planning Inspectorate	0	0	0
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	0	0	800

The Department's expenditure on decorations relates to a Christmas tree in the reception area.

In relation to Christmas functions/parties, the Department has interpreted this to mean internal, departmental Christmas functions/parties. On this basis, the Department can confirm that no official funds were used for Christmas parties in 2008.

Community Relations: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 479W, on community relations, how much his Department plans to allocate in total to Prevent-related *(a)* national projects, *(b)* local authority projects and (c) community leadership fund projects in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [298513]

Mr. Malik: The Department plans to spend the following amounts to support Prevent-related projects. In 2009-10 £16.5 million was paid through the area based grant to local authorities, and in 2010-11 local authorities will receive a further £24 million through the ABG—to support local Prevent work.

£

	Funding in	
	2009-10	*2010-11*
National projects	7.08 million	10.72 million
Local authority projects and Government office capacity building[1]	3.95 million	750,000
Community Leadership Fund projects	1,664.940 million	1,024.179 million

[1] Excluding area based grant—but including £3.2 million Challenge and Innovation Fund paid in 2009-10

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement on 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 30-32WS, on connecting communities, how many areas will receive funding from the Connecting Communities programme; and what criteria will be used to select those areas. [299578]

Barbara Follett: We aim to support about 100 areas in this financial year to re-invigorate neighbourhoods that are feeling the pressure from the recession most acutely. The first 27 areas to receive help from the £12 million Strong Connecting Communities fund were announced on 14 October this year and we expect to announce further areas in early December.

The neighbourhoods have been identified after the examination of a range of hard and soft data on cohesion; deprivation and crime; perceived unfairness in the allocation of resources and feedback from people working locally. Although there are modest additional resources available for support specific to the individual area, the focus will be on working through mainstream government and local programmes and using resources already allocated to the target areas. We aim to help local authorities ensure that residents are aware of the opportunities and services to them and to give them the tools to influence what happens in their local area.

Council Housing: Finance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much historic housing debt remains a local authority responsibility. [299828]

Mr. Ian Austin: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Council Housing: Sales

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in *(a)* England and *(b)* Leeds local authority area applied to buy their council house under the right to buy scheme in the latest period for which figures are available. [299647]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 977W, for figures showing local authority right to buy applications up to 2008-09, by local authority.

Council Housing: Standards

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on renovation of damp properties under the decent homes standard. [299365]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 11 November 2009]:* To be decent, a home must be free of all category 1 hazards under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) and also meet other criteria. Damp is one of the 29 hazards within the HHSRS. A home is considered to be non decent through a HHSRS failure.

Guidance on the Decent Homes standard can be found in sections 4 and 5 of "A Decent Homes: definition and guidance for implementation, June 2006". This is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/138355.pdf

Guidance on the Housing Health and Safety Rating System can be found in "Housing Health and Safety Rating System, Guidance for landlords and property related professionals" at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/150940.pdf

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what appeals process exists for local authority tenants who are refused improvements required to attain the decent homes standard. [299366]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 11 November 2009]:* It is up to individual landlords to decide, in consultation with their tenants, what works are required to bring their properties up to the decent homes standard. Tenants should not be refused work under the decent homes programme. However if they are unable to resolve an issue informally with landlords they can make a formal complaint. If the tenant still feels that the landlord has not provided the appropriate level of service or taken due care after an internal complaint then the local government ombudsman may be able to investigate.

Council Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the estimated cost to the public purse would be of extending the council tax single person discount to households where one or more member is serving with the armed forces overseas; [298242]

(2) what the estimated cost to the public purse would be of extending council tax single person discount to households where one or more member is in prison. [298243]

Barbara Follett: No estimate has been made of the cost to the public purse of extending the single person's discount scheme.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account was taken of the effect of council tax on the families of *(a)* military personnel serving overseas and *(b)* prisoners on remand when setting the conditions for the single person discount. [298244]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* The treatment of service personnel and prisoners in relation to council tax single person discount has not changed since council tax was introduced in 1993. The legislation reflects the fact that generally prisoners have no means to support their families in paying the tax.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households received council tax single person discount where the single adult's spouse was *(a)* engaged in military services overseas and *(b)* in prison in the latest period for which figures are available. [298245]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* Single person discount is not granted to spouses of service personnel who are serving abroad. On 25 September 2007, the Ministry of Defence announced a non-statutory council tax relief scheme. The scheme provides a lump-sum payment to service personnel who pay council tax for a property in the UK or who pay contributions in lieu of council tax (CILOCT) for service family accommodation (SFA) and are on operational deployments overseas. These payments are based on 25 per cent. of the average council tax per dwelling in England and is updated annually in line with council tax increases. This scheme is administered directly by the MOD.

We do not collect centrally the number of households that receive council tax single person discount where the single adult's spouse is in prison. This is a matter for individual local authorities.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2009. [299558]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government paid 90.59 per cent. of invoices within 10 days in September and 93.38 per cent. of invoices within 10 days in October. The value of invoices paid within 10 days in September was over £2.8 billion and in October was over £2.4 billion.

Departmental Contracts

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what companies *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Tenant Services Authority, *(c)* the Homes and Communities Agency and *(d)* the Homes and Communities Agency Academy have contracted with in the last 12 months. [299991]

Barbara Follett: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department's information assurance procedures have been subject to an independent audit. [299331]

Barbara Follett: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* energy rating and *(b)* energy band of each building occupied by his Department and its agencies was in each year for which figures are available. [299312]

Barbara Follett: Display Energy Certificate (DEC) energy ratings and bands for buildings occupied by Communities and Local Government and its executive agencies are detailed as follows:

		2008		*2009*	
Property centre	*Building name*	*Operational rating (A-G)*	*Operational rating (numerical)*	*Operational rating (A-G)*	*Operational rating (numerical)*
CLG-Central	Eland House	F	127	E	108
	Hempstead House	B	50	B	48
	Ashdown House	G	171	No longer occupied by CLG	
Executive Agencies	Fire Service College	D	87	Not yet available	
	Planning Inspectorate	G	168	G	152
	Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	F	132	F	126

Note:
These data do not include the Government Office Network.

The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) also publishes central Government Departments' Display Energy Certificate (DEC) operational ratings on a building by building level twice a year. The most recent data, published on 31 July 2009, contain DEC data up to and including 28 February 2009. Data relating to the month ending 30 September 2009 will be published on 18 December 2009. This information can be found at:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/sustainability_ programme_progress.asp

The table OGC is publishing will also include DEC reference numbers for each building, which can be used to view each building's advisory report on the following website:

https://www.ndepcregister.com/home.html

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 648W, on departmental ministerial policy advisers, how many specialist staff are employed by his Department on a fixed-term contract to provide policy advice; and what the *(a)* title and *(b)* policy specialism is of each such member of staff. [292979]

Barbara Follett: All civil servants are employed to provide impartial advice to Ministers and are engaged on fixed-term, permanent or other recognised contractual terms.

The number of staff on fixed-term contracts varies according to business need. 43 staff are recorded as being employed on this basis.

Our HR database does not record an official job title or policy specialism.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department and its agencies in 2008-09. [299288]

Barbara Follett: Press officers in the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) and it's executive agencies claimed £2,492.63 in reimbursable expenses in 2008-09.

Departmental Political Activities

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 28 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 474W, on party conferences, how much each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies spent sending representatives to attend each of the party political conferences in 2009. [298684]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 28 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 474-75W. Please see following table.

Body	*Total spend (£)*
Audit Commission	58,760
Community Development Foundation	1,300
Homes and Communities Agency	1,770
Standards Board for England	54,060
Tenant Services Authority	2,920

Most of the Audit Commission's and the Standards Board's expenditure was on exhibitor costs, as approved by the Department's Accounting Officer after he had considered business cases from the bodies.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with which providers *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies had a contract to provide postal services in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, (iii) between 1 January 2009 and 1 July 2009 and (iv) since 1 July 2009. [299433]

Barbara Follett: Since July 2004 mail services for the Department's headquarters buildings have been provided under the Integrated Facilities Management contract with Mitie which runs until July 2011. Mitie currently use Royal Mail for the despatch of national mail items and Corporate Mailing Services (CMS) for international mail items under sub-contract arrangements they have in place with those companies.

During the period in question mail services for the Fire Service College and QEII Centre have been provided by Royal Mail. Mail services for the Planning Inspectorate have been provided by Royal Mail and City link Post.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department and its agencies on procurement under tender because the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last 12 months. [299349]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not hold this information centrally and it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre has had no cancelled tenders in the last 12 months.

Fire Service College has not cancelled any tenders in the 12 months.

Planning Inspectorate and Ordnance Survey would be able to supply this information only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Recruitment

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 1 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1834W, on departmental recruitment, if he will publish the job specification of the *(a)* Policy Adviser—Local Government Restructuring, *(b)* Policy Adviser—Strategy and Performance and *(c)* Project Adviser—Local Analysis and Delivery Unit; and whether each is assigned to work primarily for a particular Minister. [292841]

Barbara Follett: Officials at this level in the Department provide advice and support to Ministers, working on a flexible basis in policy teams. In these cases the teams are in local government restructuring, strategy and performance and local area analysis.

Summaries of the job specifications for each of the roles are as follows:

(a) The role of the Policy Adviser, Local Government Restructuring, is to contribute to the work of the local government reorganisation team through assisting in project management; updating project plans and monitoring progress; communications, including designing and maintaining internet pages; drafting ministerial and treat official correspondence; collating and analysing representations from the public in relation to the Boundary Committee's advice; assisting in the development of regulations and assisting in the formulation of advice using GIS software.

(b) The role of the Policy Adviser, Strategy and Performance, as with all members of the Strategy and Performance team, is to provide additional policy advice and flexible support to officials and Ministers across the Department as business need demands. The individual in this specific post currently provides support on housing and planning issues.

(c) The role of the Project Adviser, Local Analysis and Delivery Unit is to work as part of a priority project team which undertakes projects as commissioned by the Local Government Director General's meeting and reports the findings to this group and LPD Programme Board. The role also supports the project team leader to establish and maintain relationships with relevant stakeholders in other Government Departments, Government offices for the Region, local areas and agencies in order to identify issues and engage stakeholders in priority project work.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 1 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1834W, on departmental recruitment, which posts filled by his Department in the nine months up to the end of May 2009 were not advertised on either his Department's public website or on the public part of the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway; and what the job title and remit was of each such vacancy. [292842]

Barbara Follett: Permanent civil servants are appointed through fair and open competition. Staff are, from time to time, recruited through restricted competition on a time-limited basis to provide additional expertise, skills and capacity as required.

The following vacancies were not advertised publicly and were filled through limited competition. The remit of each vacancy was as follows:

	Vacancy title	*Remit*
1.	Assistant Scientific Officer	Resilience Research
2.	Rapid Review Project Team Member	Local Performance and Delivery
3.	Policy and Delivery Manager	FiReControl
4.	Executive Meetings Owner	FiReControl
5.	Head of Local Communications	Research Information and Communications Unit
6.	Temporary Statistical Officer	Analysis Team
7.	HEO Transition Co-ordinator	FiReControl Transition Team
8.	Personal Assistant	Housing
9.	Executive Officer	Local Transformation, Improvement and Efficiency
10.	Policy Officer	Mobility and Choice
11.	Executive Officer	Mobility and Choice
12.	Executive Officer	Mobility and Choice
13.	Personal Assistant	FiReControl
14.	Executive Officer	Mobility and Choice
15.	Mobility Services	Delivery Manager
16.	Personal Assistant	Migration
17.	Grade 6	Residential Property Tribunal Service
18.	Marketing Manager	Planning Portal
19.	Grade 7 member of Legal Directorate	Lawyer
20.	Personal Assistant	Strategy and Performance
21.	Project Adviser	Local Analysis and Delivery Unit
22.	Team Leader	Olympics Legacy Planning and Delivery
23.	Development Team Admin	Planning Portal

	Vacancy title	*Remit*
24.	HR Helpdesk operator	Human Resources
25.	Policy Adviser	Local Government Restructuring
26.	Member Workforce Equalities Team (Project Officer)	Workforce Equalities
27.	HR Communications Manager	Human Resources
28.	Women's Engagement Officer	Preventing Extremism Delivery

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 1 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1834W, on departmental recruitment, which individuals were employed in the positions of *(a)* Policy Adviser—Local Government Restructuring and *(b)* Policy Adviser—Strategy and Performance. [292845]

Barbara Follett: It is standard practice not to identify junior staff holding particular posts. The holders of these posts fall within that category.

Information about the senior civil servants responsible for specific business areas in the Department can be found annually in the Civil Service Yearbook.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 1 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1834W, on departmental recruitment, for what reasons the position of *(a)* Policy Adviser—Local Government Restructuring and *(b)* Policy Adviser—Strategy and Performance, was not publicly advertised. [292846]

Barbara Follett: The two policy adviser roles were not publicly advertised as the Civil Service Recruitment Principles allow for appointments to be made through limited competition as "exceptions to fair and open competition" where they believe this is justified by the needs of the civil service.

The role of Policy Adviser, Local Government Restructuring was not publicly advertised because the role had been filled on a temporary basis by an individual found through a recruitment agency. This individual proved successful in the role and was offered a fixed-term appointment.

For the role of Policy Adviser, Strategy and Performance, a suitable candidate was identified with specific capabilities and experience. Candidates are sourced for these appointments through recruitment agencies and through contacts such as stakeholders with whom the Department engages regularly, who may be able to assist with vacancies which require specific skills.

In both cases, the candidates were judged to have the necessary capability to be effective in the roles. As such, the jobs were not advertised more widely.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 1 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1834W, on departmental recruitment, what processes are used to hire staff through limited competition on a time-limited basis; and how this recruitment process differs from usual practice. [292985]

Barbara Follett: Candidates are sourced for fixed-term appointments through recruitment agencies and through contacts such as stakeholders with whom the Department engages regularly, who may be able to assist with vacancies which require specific capabilities or experience.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the statistical datasets collected by his Department are published. [299672]

Mr. Ian Austin: As a matter of course, Communities and Local Government publishes information from all of its statistical datasets which meets the definition of 'official statistics' set out in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. The statistics are published in accordance with the requirements set out in the 'Code of Practice for Official Statistics' and the 'National Statistician's Guidance on the Presentation and Publication of Official Statistics'.

Empty Dwelling Management Orders

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how his Department evaluates the effectiveness of empty dwelling management orders. [299918]

Mr. Ian Austin: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Home Information Packs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of home information packs produced in the last 12 months. [299743]

John Healey: We estimate that 815,922 home information packs were produced between 3 November 2008 and 1 November 2009.

Homelessness: South East

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeless people there were in *(a)* North East Milton Keynes constituency, *(b)* Buckinghamshire and *(c)* the South East in each year since 1997. [299639]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library and via the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessq22009

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

The regional figures for the number of applicants accepted as owed a main duty and the number of households in temporary accommodation, for each financial year since 1998-99 can be found in tables 3 and 7 of the latest Statistical Release. The equivalent 1997-98 figures can be found in earlier additions of the release, accessible from this link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Data are not collected at constituency level. North East Milton Keynes is one of the two constituencies that form the local authority of Milton Keynes. Data are not reported at county level. Buckinghamshire includes the following local authorities: Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern, Milton Keynes, South Bucks and Wycombe.

For local authority level acceptance and temporary accommodation figures between 1997-98 and 2008-09 (including those listed above), I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) on 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 843W.

Information is also collected and reported on the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who are literally roofless on a single night. Local authority data and count guidance can be found here:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/homelessness/roughsleeping/

Homes and Communities Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which HomeBuy agents were appointed by the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor in each of the last three years; and how much was paid to each agent in each such year; [299984]

(2) how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency, *(c)* the Homes and Communities Agency Academy and *(d)* the Tenant Services Authority expects to spend on Christmas parties in 2009; [299985]

(3) what *(a)* drinks receptions, *(b)* seminars and *(c)* conferences have been hosted by (i) his Department, (ii) the Tenant Services Authority, (iii) the Homes and Communities Agency and (iv) the Homes and Communities Agency Academy in each of the last 12 months; [299986]

(4) how much the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has spent on staff costs related to the HCA Academy; [299987]

(5) how much the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor paid in social housing grants in relation to *(a)* low cost home ownership, *(b)* social rent and *(c)* works to registered social landlords' housing stock in each of the last three years; [299988]

(6) how much the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor received in interest payments in each of the last three years; [299989]

(7) what the monetary value of *(a)* buildings and *(b)* leases owned by (i) the Tenant Services Authority and (ii) the Homes and Communities Agency and their predecessors and used as offices was in each of the last three years; [299990]

(8) what assessment the Homes and Communities Agency has made of the *(a)* costs and *(b)* benefits to it related to changes in taxation levels during 2009-10; and if he will make a statement; [299992]

(9) what *(a)* shareholdings and *(b)* subsidiaries the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) owns; what the purpose of ownership of each stake is; what the HCA's shareholding represents as a percentage of the overall shares; and what recent estimate he has made of the monetary value of each stake; [299993]

(10) what sums the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor charged to other public sector bodies in each of the last three years; [299994]

(11) for how much the Homes and Communities Agency's land at the Gateway site in Harlow was *(a)* purchased and *(b)* sold; [299995]

(12) what the average per household entitlement to the proceeds of future sales of properties owned by the Homes and Communities Agency is under each HomeBuy scheme; [299996]

(13) what the monetary value of the sums owed *(a)* by and *(b)* to the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor was in each of the last three years; and how much of each amount is due to be paid in each of the next three years; [299997]

(14) how many property interests with negative value the Homes and Communities Agency holds; and if he will make a statement; [299998]

(15) how many bad debts the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor acquired in each of the last three years; and what the monetary value of each such debt was; [299999]

(16) how much the Homes and Communities Agency spent in acquiring *(a)* St. Clement's Hospital, London and *(b)* Castle College Northside, Sheffield; and if he will make a statement; [300000]

(17) what business EP(LP) Ltd undertakes as a subsidiary of the Homes and Communities Agency; and if he will make a statement; [300001]

(18) if he will place in the Library a copy of the Homes and Communities Agency's Single Equality Scheme; [300002]

(19) what the reasons were for the requirement for an advance from the National Loans Fund to the Homes and Communities Agency as referred to on page 56 of the Agency's Annual Report and Financial Statement 2008/09; [300004]

(20) what the components are of the impairment charge referred to on page 74 of the Homes and Communities Agency's Annual Report and Financial Statement 2008/09; [300005]

(21) what the net cost to the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor was of each bad debt incurred against it in each of the last three years; [300008]

(22) if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* management agreement and *(b)* financial framework in operation between his Department and the Homes and Communities Agency; [300009]

(23) what estimate he has made of the monetary value of the entitlements of the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor to future sale proceeds resulting from the sale of homes under *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* OwnHome, *(c)* Open Market HomeBuy, *(d)* MyChoice HomeBuy, *(e)* New Build HomeBuy and *(f)* Social HomeBuy in each of the last three years; [300010]

(24) how much the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor paid in loans to water companies in each of the last three years; [300011]

(25) how many private finance initiative credits the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor allocated in each of the last three years; [300012]

(26) how many Homes and Communities Agency employees received *(a)* performance-related payments, *(b)* other taxable benefits and *(c)* benefits in kind in respect of the year to March 2009; and how much was spent on such payments; [300013]

(27) what salary has been set for each Homes and Communities Agency regional director for 2009-10; [300014]

(28) how much the Homes and Communities Agency secured in private sector contributions to its property and regeneration programme in 2008-09; [300015]

(29) what target was set for the Homes and Communities Agency in respect of low cost homes ownership starts in 2008-09; and what target has been set for 2009-10; [300016]

(30) how much each board member of the Homes and Communities Agency Academy has been paid since their appointment; [300017]

(31) on what dates the Homes and Communities Agency's Rural Housing Group has met since 1 December 2008; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting; [300018]

(32) what the net value of assets held by the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor was in each of the last three years; [300019]

(33) how much the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor spent on *(a)* the Property and Regeneration Scheme, *(b)* the National Affordable Housing Programme, *(c)* the Community Infrastructure Fund, *(d)* Homes and Communities Agency Academy and *(e)* the Decent Homes programme in each of the last three years; [300020]

(34) how much the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor spent on *(a)* Places of Change, *(b)* the Thames Gateway and *(c)* growth funding in each of the last three years; [300021]

(35) how much the Homes and Communities Agency has spent on the Hanham Hall development *(a)* in total and *(b)* per unit; [300022]

(36) how many new homes have been built with support from the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor on *(a)* brownfield and *(b)* greenfield sites in each of the last three years; [300023]

(37) what role the Homes and Communities Agency has had in the delivery of *(a)* the Mortgage Rescue Scheme and *(b)* the National Clearing House; [300024]

(38) how many projects the Homes and Communities Agency has supported through community infrastructure funding; [300025]

(39) how many local authorities received loans from the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last three years; and how much was provided in such loans in each such year; [300026]

(40) how many registered social landlords received loans from the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last three years; and how much was provided in such loans in each such year; [300027]

(41) what estimate he has made of the amount of Homes and Communities Agency liabilities in each of the next three years; [300028]

(42) what estimate he has made of the amount of debts due to the Homes and Communities Agency in each of the next three years; [300029]

(43) what Homes and Communities Agency assets are available for sale; and what the book value of such assets was in each of the last three years; [300030]

(44) what target was set for the Homes and Communities Agency in relation to private sector investment in its property and regeneration programme in 2008-09; and what target has been set for 2009-10; [300031]

(45) how much the Homes and Communities Agency has spent on its National Consultancy Unit since the creation of that unit; [300032]

(46) what percentage of the asset writedown due to impairment of development assets referred to on pages 83 and 97 of the Homes and Communities Agency's Annual Report and Financial Statements 2008-09 relates to assets previously held by *(a)* English Partnerships, *(b)* the Housing Corporation and *(c)* the Academy for Sustainable Communities; [300033]

(47) what percentage of the asset writedown due to impairment of development assets referred to on pages 83 and 97 of the Homes and Communities Agency's Annual Report and Financial Statements 2008-09 relates to *(a)* land and *(b)* property assets; [300034]

[illegible] how much the Homes and Communities Agency [illegible]nt on the Future Communities website; and how many *(a)* unique visitors and *(b)* page impressions have been recorded by the site since its creation; [300035]

(49) how much the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor spent on the employment of temporary staff in each of the last three years; [300036]

(50) pursuant to the answer of 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1121-22, on departmental recruitment, who was engaged by his Department to advise on and oversee the recruitment process for the Homes and Communities Agency and the Tenants Services Agency; what the terms of the contract with his Department was; and what procurement process was followed in respect of the contract; [300037]

(51) pursuant to the answer of 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1124W, on the Homes and Communities Agency: consultants, how much the Homes and Communities Academy spent on *(a)* the National and Regional Delivery Structure project, *(b)* the Brownfield Skills project, *(c)* the Endorsement Framework project, *(d)* the Benchmark and Toolkit project, *(e)* the Practical Knowledge to Support delivery project and *(f)* the Programme staff costs project; and how much of each sum was spent on consultancy costs; [300038]

(52) how many sites listed as *(a)* Grade I and *(b)* Grade II the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor has redeveloped in each of the last three years; and how many homes have been built on such sites; [300041]

(53) how much the Homes and Communities Agency spent under each budget category in exhibiting a show garden at the Chelsea Flower Show 2009; [300043]

(54) when he expects to make a decision on the future of the pilot Rent to HomeBuy scheme; [300044]

(55) what the financial exposure of the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) was in each of the last three years; and to how many single counterparties of more than *(a)* £50 million and *(b)* £100 million the HCA is exposed; [300045]

(56) how much was transferred from the Homes and Communities Agency to the Government Banking Service at the end of each of the last 30 days for which figures are available; [300046]

(57) how much grant-in-aid funding from his Department was drawn down by the Homes and Communities Agency in each of the last *(a)* 24 weeks and *(b)* 12 months; [300047]

(58) how much the Homes and Communities Agency has spent *(a)* in total and *(b)* on each housing association (i) shared ownership products and (ii) try before you buy homes in the latest year for which figures are available; [300049]

(59) how much has been spent by the Homes and Communities Agency on providing *(a)* signage and *(b)* security for the site at (A) St Clements Hospital, London and (B) Castle College Northside, Sheffield; [300051]

(60) how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistants and *(c)* laptops computers were purchased by the (i) Tenant Services Authority and (ii) Homes and Communities Agency in the last 12 months; [300053]

(61) with which *(a)* central Government bodies, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* public corporations the Homes and Communities Agency held balances in each of the last three years; [300054]

(62) which sites have been purchased for development by the Homes and Communities Agency from public sector bodies; from which organisations such sites were purchased; and how many such sites have been sold; [300055]

(63) how much the Homes and Communities Agency paid for each piece of surplus public sector land it purchased in each of the last five years; and for how much each site was subsequently sold; [300056]

(64) what *(a)* mortality and *(b)* financial assumptions were made by (i) his Department, (ii) the Homes and Communities Agency and (iii) the Tenant Services Authority in relation to its pension scheme in each of the last three years. [300057]

John Healey: Notice of these questions was only received on 11 November and it has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Homes and Communities Agency: Consultants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1124W, on the Homes and Communities Agency: consultants, (1) how much was spent by Homes and Communities Agency on High Profile Events; how much of that was spent on consultancy costs; and if he will make a statement; [299709]

(2) how much was spent by Homes and Communities Academy on the Leadership of Space project; and how much of that was spent on consultancy costs; [299710]

(3) how much was spent by the Homes and Communities Academy on the new products and programmes project; and how much of that was spent on consultancy costs; [299721]

(4) how much was spent by the Homes and Communities Academy on the Skills Action Plan project; and how much of that was spent on consultancy costs. [299749]

John Healey: The figures requested are shown in the following table.

£

Event/project	*Total spend*	*Of which: Consultancy spend*
New products and programmes	[1]131,000	48,000
High Profile Events	[2]282,000	1,000
Leadership of Space	27,000	3,000
Skills Action Plan	65,000	53,000

[1] Includes event management, travel, marketing, staff salaries and press cuttings costs.
[2] Includes grants and marketing costs.

Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent by the Homes and Communities Agency Academy on *(a)* developing, *(b)* publicising and *(c)* conducting its online introductory course for place-making; and if he will make a statement. [298676]

John Healey: The development cost associated with the academy's 10 week online workshops were incurred prior to the creation of the Homes and Communities Agency. Publicity costs have amounted to £816. The continued support costs associated with the course are £21,000 to deliver seven workshops since 1 April 2009. The total costs to date are therefore £21,816, which equates to a cost per person of £33.72. The workshops give practitioners and professionals advice, guidance and support from experienced tutors.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what forecasts of housing market trends *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency and *(c)* the Tenant Services Authority have commissioned; [299983]

(2) what the average cost per unit is of building a home on the Hanham Hall site in Bristol; [300003]

(3) how much surplus public sector land there was in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area in each of the last eight quarters; [300006]

(4) how many affordable homes were built in rural areas in each year since 1997; [300007]

(5) how many sites on the Register of Surplus Public Sector Land have been on the register for longer than *(a)* six months and *(b)* 12 months; [300039]

(6) how many sites on the Register of Surplus Public Sector Land are classed as suitable for new homes to be built on; and what estimate has been made of the number of new homes which could be built on such sites; [300040]

(7) what recent progress has been made on the National Coalfields Programme; and if he will make a statement; [300042]

(8) what his most recent estimate is of the average cost of building a home which meets Sustainable Code Level *(a)* 5, *(b)* 6 and *(c)* 6*; [300048]

(9) how many homes were purchased under the National Clearing House scheme in each of the last three years; and how many such homes were subsequently *(a)* sold, *(b)* used for affordable rent, *(c)* purchased under shared ownership and *(d)* unused. [300050]

Mr. Ian Austin: Notice of these questions was received on 11 November and it has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Housing Benefit

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost to landlords of the introduction of direct payment of local housing allowance in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* each of the subsequent five years. [299916]

Mr. Ian Austin: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities would have to take on historic debt in addition to that already held under the Government's preferred option for housing revenue account reform. [299633]

Mr. Ian Austin: The debt allocated to each council under self-financing would be set at a level which it could support within a sustainable business plan which delivers the extra investment needed while continuing to set social rents in line with national policy.

The amount of housing debt allocated to each council will depend on a range of variables in addition to assumptions on annual management, maintenance and repairs costs. These include rent levels, interest rates, the pricing of risk and the funding of the backlog of repairs. The work on assessing these issues has not yet been completed so I am not now in a position to estimate the amount of debt each council would hold under the new system. I am however clear that the additional spending on management, maintenance and major repairs which we have committed to fund as part of our reforms mean that all councils would be better off under self-financing than they would be if the current system continued unreformed.

Housing: Building Regulations

Mr. Horam: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the cost-benefit impact assessment of funding for overground oil tanks contained in Proposals for amending the approved document J (combustion appliances and fuel storage systems) of the Buildings Regulations omitted *(a)* the potential wider costs to the environment and the potential health implications of water and environmental contamination, *(b)* the benefit to tank manufacturers of selling a high-specification tank as standard and *(c)* any estimate of the damage caused by non-reported spillages; and if he will commission a further impact assessment study. [299121]

Mr. Ian Austin: The consultation stage impact assessment, which was included in my Department's consultation document on proposals for amending part J of the building regulations, explains in some detail how the potential benefits of bunding all domestic oil tanks has been estimated.

(a) A figure for environmental damage of £10,000 per incident is included in the assessment. This is an indicative estimated average provided by the Environment Agency.

(b) The benefits to manufacturers were not considered to be significant but manufacturers of oil tanks may wish to provide estimates of this in their response to the consultation.

(c) There is no way of reliably assessing the number of unreported incidents, however the sensitivity analysis, included in the impact assessment suggests that only a very high number of unreported incidents would affect the conclusions of the assessment.

The consultation specifically invites comments on the impact assessment and my Officials have already been in discussion with the Oil Firing Technical Association and the Environment Agency to see if the impact assessment can be improved. It is normal practice to revisit an impact assessment once a consultation is complete.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* council houses, *(b)* social houses for rent, *(c)* affordable houses for sale and *(d)* other private houses to be built in the year ending 1 April 2010. [299634]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department does not publish forecasts for house building.

The most recent information on new build housing are shown in the house building statistical release for April to June 2009 on the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/housebuildingq22009rev

Information on the number of council homes and private homes built in England, up to 2008-09, are included in Live Table 209 on the CLG. Figures for 2009-10 will be released by CLG in August 2010.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/323495.xls

Information on new build of social rent and affordable homes for sale to 2007-08 are included in Live Table 1009 on the CLG website. Figures for 2008-09 will be released by CLG in December 2009.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1319866.xls

Information on the number of homes completed under the National Affordable Housing Programme (NAHP) for April to September 2009 will be released by the HCA on 24 November.

Housing: East of England

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes have been built in *(a)* Peterborough constituency, *(b)* Cambridgeshire and *(c)* the East of England since 1997. [300116]

Mr. Ian Austin: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Housing: Fire Prevention

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of his Department's guidelines contained in the *(a)* Decent Homes Standard and *(b)* Housing Health and Safety Rating System in respect of fire safety. [298261]

Mr. Ian Austin: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Housing: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) have had with the Mayor of London on (i) the HCA's Public Land Initiative and (ii) the Mayor's audit of surplus Greater London Authority (GLA) land; how much of the surplus GLA land falls under the Public Land Initiative; and if he will make a statement. [299241]

John Healey: In September 2009 I discussed the delivery of affordable housing in London and the Public Land Initiative investment launched as part of the Government's Housing Pledge with the Mayor of London, and I also wrote to the Mayor stressing the important contribution that surplus public sector land can make to increasing the supply of homes across all tenures, and suggested that the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), London Development Agency (LDA) and Transport for London (TfL) should be asked urgently to prepare a joint plan for managing their land assets to support affordable housing delivery in London.

Officials from the HCA are continuing to examine with Greater London Authority (GLA) officials ways to increase home building, in particular affordable homes, on surplus land belonging to the GLA, including the LDA and TfL.

None of the GLA's surplus land currently falls under the Public Land Initiative. Early this month I wrote to the Mayor of London proposing that he should work with HCA on this specific initiative to support delivery of homes in London.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what categories of community land trust are recognised by his Department. [illegible]

John Healey: The definition of Community Land Trusts is set out in section 79 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will consider the merits of extending his Department's Kickstart Housing Delivery fund to rural areas. [illegible]

John Healey: The Housing Kickstart Programme, managed by the Homes and Communities Agency, operates across the whole of England including rural areas, where it has a lower threshold for schemes to enable typically smaller schemes to be considered. In Round one of the Kickstart programme 23 of the 91 projects now approved are in rural areas. These will generate over 1,600 homes with investment of around £37 million.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social housing tenants joined the Rent to HomeBuy scheme in each of the last three years. [illegible]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 751W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social housing tenants purchased equity in a home through *(a)* HomeBuy Direct, *(b)* Rent to HomeBuy, *(c)* Open Market HomeBuy, *(d)* MyChoice HomeBuy, *(e)* OwnHome, *(f)* First Time Buyer's Initiative, *(g)* New Build HomeBuy and *(h)* Social HomeBuy in each of the last three years. [illegible]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) on 8 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 448-489W.

Housing: Owner Occupation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeowners there were in *(a)* Vale of Clwyd, *(b)* each region of England, *(c)* Wales, *(d)* Scotland and *(e)* Northern Ireland in each of the last 20 years. [illegible]

Mr. Ian Austin: Annual survey-based estimates of the number of homeowners in each region of the United Kingdom are set out in the following tables for the years 1996 to 2008.

Information prior to 1996 is not readily available and estimates for the parliamentary constituency of the Vale of Clwyd are not held by this Department.

Number of homeowners in UK by region 1996 to 2008

Households (Thousand)

	North East	*North West*	*Yorks and Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*Eastern*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*	*Wales*	*Scotland*	*Northern Ireland*	*United Kingdom*
1996	658	1,912	1,345	1,198	1,444	1,535	1,653	2,361	1,449	833	1,270	383	16,032
1997	672	1,924	1,362	1,209	1,455	1,546	1,641	2,369	1,443	861	1,283	395	16,160
1998	672	1,939	1,353	1,235	1,510	1,593	1,645	2,379	1,482	838	1,297	418	16,363
1999	659	1,976	1,410	1,233	1,507	1,627	1,681	2,448	1,523	856	1,328	426	16,694
2000	689	2,017	1,441	1,269	1,512	1,644	1,740	2,484	1,536	855	1,357	433	16,976
2001	687	2,021	1,427	1,268	1,530	1,675	1,742	2,447	1,564	874	1,388	452	17,065
2002	708	2,023	1,466	1,276	1,584	1,651	1,720	2,538	1,583	887	1,446	455	17,336
2003	730	2,081	1,500	1,300	1,564	1,667	1,722	2,555	1,574	922	1,472	456	17,540
2004	719	2,041	1,525	1,330	1,580	1,700	1,688	2,528	1,558	902	1,533	469	17,572
2005	731	2,037	1,510	1,324	1,607	1,709	1,701	2,582	1,576	908	1,548	492	17,725
2006	735	2,093	1,518	1,361	1,554	1,704	1,664	2,563	1,589	924	1,511	483	17,699
2007	723	2,097	1,519	1,354	1,584	1,677	1,643	2,539	1,583	927	1,529	495	17,671
2008	721	2,030	1,536	1,355	1,549	1,719	1,648	2,475	1,590	909	1,546	499	17,571

Source:
Office for National Statistics, Labour Force Survey, 1996-2008

Housing: Regeneration

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent by each Pathfinder Partnership operating in the North and the Midlands. [illegible]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Local Government: Leeds and Greater Manchester

Mr. Gregory: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent assessment is of the progress of the city region pilots in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* Manchester; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The city-region pilots are recognition of the strategic importance of city-regions in realising the shared objective of increased and sustained economic growth.

Good progress has been made in discussions with Greater Manchester and Leeds city region building on the priorities set out in April's Budget Statement.

Joint teams of Government and local officials have been working intensively to reach an agreement for both city regions on proposals to develop new strategy-setting powers over adult skills funding; aligned investment to support regeneration and housing; and robust governance arrangements necessary for increased responsibility for transport.

In discussions with Greater Manchester, there has also been a focus on improving the early years experience and life chances of people living in the most deprived areas. We are working with Leeds city region to build on its existing research strengths and maximise its potential for science excellence through a joint innovation strategy.

We anticipate that full details will be announced by the end of the year when new agreements are expected with Greater Manchester and Leeds city region.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 8 September 2009, on the new regional strategy in relation to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill. [299909]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A response was sent to the hon. Member's letter on 7 October 2009.

Microgeneration

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the implementation of Planning Policy Statement 22 on the number of schools, charities and voluntary organisations which generate renewable energy. [299903]

Mr. Ian Austin: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Monuments: Armed Conflict

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make it his policy to ensure that the revised Planning Policy Statement 15 on the historic environment makes specific reference to the protection of war memorials. [293266]

Mr. Ian Austin: I will write to the hon. Member and place copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much his Department has spent on the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme to date; [299745]

(2) how much his Department has spent on the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme to date. [299746]

John Healey: We have acted rapidly to put in place a range of help and support for households struggling with their mortgage at every stage.

The Department spent £905,334 (excluding VAT) on legal, IT and operational services to develop and implement Homeowners Mortgage Support. Ongoing operational costs to 31 October 2009 were £92,860 (excluding VAT).

Additionally, PricewaterhouseCoopers have provided commercial expertise to support development of our interventions to prevent repossessions, in particular to inform negotiations with lenders on their forbearance policies and liaison with the money advice sector, and advise on the interface with the regulatory framework. The total cost was £1,143,883 (excluding VAT). Statistics from the Financial Services Authority show that by June 2009, over 135,000 borrowers were benefiting from forbearance offered by their lender, an increase of 74 per cent. on the previous year.

Neighbourhood Wardens

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many neighbourhood wardens were funded by his Department in each of the last five years. [299887]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Non-Domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* crematoriums, *(b)* funeral parlours and chapels of rest and *(c)* cemeteries (i) there were on the 2005 Rating List and (ii) there are on the draft 2010 Rating List; what the aggregate rateable value is of the premises on each list; and what methodology the Valuation Office Agency used to rate (A) the crematoriums and (B) funeral parlours and chapels of rest at the 2005 and 2010 revaluations. [297700]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 4 November 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Members for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman), Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) and Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) today to PQs 294135, 294887, 294903, 294527 and 295703 which state that a table has been placed in the Library of the House showing the number of hereditaments and the total and average rateable values for hereditaments in each special category code on both the 2005 rating lists and the draft 2010 rating lists as at 29 May 2009.

The special category code for crematoria is 80, funeral parlours and chapels of rest 111 and cemeteries 053.

The aim of a rating valuation is to arrive at the rental value for the premises at the standard valuation date. Because of the differing nature of the numerous classes of property, valuation officers have to use various valuation methods to arrive at rental value. The methodologies used for valuation were the same for both the 2005 rating lists and the 2010 draft lists and these were:

(A) Crematoria: a value per annual cremation number, adjusted for the age of the crematorium. The value is derived from analysed receipts and expenditure.

(B) Funeral parlours and chapels of rest: a rentals comparison approach.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases. This is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individual hereditament *(a)* betting shops and offices, *(b)* bingo halls, *(c)* public houses, licensed restaurants and wine bars, *(d)* night clubs and discotheques and *(e)* casinos and gambling clubs were on the Valuation Office Agency's 2005 Rating List in the most recent period for which figures are available. [294135]

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the average rateable value of each type of hereditament is under each special category code in *(a)* the 2005 Rating List and *(b)* the draft 2010 Rating List; [294887]

(2) what the average rateable value of petrol stations *(a)* was on the 2005 Rating List and *(b)* is on the draft 2010 Rating List. [294903]

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hereditaments with each individual Special Category Code *(a)* were on the 2005 and *(b)* are on the draft 2010 Rating List. [295703]

Barbara Follett: I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing the number of hereditaments and the total and average rateable values for hereditaments in each special category code on both the 2005 Rating Lists and the draft 2010 Rating Lists at 29 May 2009. These data are consistent with the consultation document titled: 'The transitional arrangements for the non-domestic rating revaluation 2010 in England', published on 8 July 2009. A copy of the consultation document is available at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nndrrevaluation2010

The number of hereditaments in each special category code has been rounded to the nearest 10 and the figures for total and average rateable value have been rounded to the nearest thousand pounds.

Please note that:

a) betting shops and offices have special category code 24;

b) bingo halls have special category code 25;

c) i) public houses/pub restaurants have special category codes 226 and 227; ii) restaurants have special category code 234; iii) wine bars have special category code 303;

d) night clubs and discotheques have special code 199;

e) casinos and gambling clubs have special category code 49;

f) petrol stations have special category code 209.

Non-Domestic Rates: Fairgrounds

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* theme parks and *(b)* other amusement parks (i) there were on the 2005 Rating List and (ii) there are on the draft 2010 Rating List; what method the Valuation Office Agency used to rate each of the premises for each list; and what the (A) postal address and (B) rateable value is of each of the parks included on each list. [297717]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Members for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman), Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) and Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) today (PQs 294135, 294887, 294903, 294527 and 295703), which state that a table has been placed in the Library of the House showing the number of hereditaments and the total and average rateable values for hereditaments in each special category code on both the 2005 Rating Lists and the draft 2010 Rating Lists as at 29 May 2009. The Special Category Code for theme parks is 280 and for amusement parks 012.

The aim of a rating valuation is to arrive at the rental value of the premises at the standard valuation date. For both the 2005 Rating Lists and the 2010 Draft Lists the rateable values of amusement and theme parks have been assessed in line with the guidance contained in the Rating Manual—Volume 5, Section 70 on Amusement Parks and Theme Parks which is available on the VOA website, under Publications, at:

www.voa.gov.uk

The addresses and rateable values of theme and amusement parks currently listed in the 2005 Rating Lists and 2010 Draft Lists can be viewed on the live rating lists published on the Valuation Office Agency's website at

www.voa.gov.uk

Non-Domestic Rates: Parking

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many appeals against a Valuation Office Agency decision to place rateable values on parking spaces in *(a)* East Devon constituency, *(b)* Devon and *(c)* England have been successful in each of the last five years. [298652]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* The number of proposals against decisions to place rateable values on car parking spaces that were accepted by valuation officers or resulted in a change in assessment in *(a)* East Devon constituency, *(b)* Devon and *(c)* England during each of the last five years are as follows:

Billing authority—East Devon

	Settlement	*Total*
April 2004 to March 2005	Agreed or Wellfounded	0
April 2005 to March 2006	Agreed or Wellfounded	0
April 2006 to March 2007	Agreed or Wellfounded	0
April 2007 to March 2008	Agreed or Wellfounded	1
April 2008 to March 2009	Agreed or Wellfounded	0
April 2009 to October 2009	Agreed or Wellfounded	0
Total	Agreed or Wellfounded	1

Devon

	Settlement	*Total*
April 2004 to March 2005	Agreed or Wellfounded	0
April 2005 to March 2006	Agreed or Wellfounded	2
April 2006 to March 2007	Agreed or Wellfounded	1
April 2007 to March 2008	Agreed or Wellfounded	0
April 2008 to March 2009	Agreed or Wellfounded	1
April 2009 to October 2009	Agreed or Wellfounded	1
Total	Agreed or Wellfounded	5

England

	Settlement	*Total*
April 2004 to March 2005	Agreed or Wellfounded	472
April 2005 to March 2006	Agreed or Wellfounded	399
April 2006 to March 2007	Agreed or Wellfounded	457
April 2007 to March 2008	Agreed or Wellfounded	356
April 2008 to March 2009	Agreed or Wellfounded	363
April 2009 to October 2009	Agreed or Wellfounded	241
Total	Agreed or Wellfounded	2,288

There have been no significant changes since May 1997 in the Valuation Office Agency's methodology and guidance for valuing car spaces, which is set out in Rating Manual Volume 5 Section 200 for Car Parks and in the individual practice note issued for each five yearly revaluation. The methodology has remained one of Rental Comparison by parking space. Current and earlier practice notes can be compared on the Valuation Office Agency's website at:

www.voa.gov.uk

Non-Domestic Rates: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which 50 individual hereditaments in the local authority area of Peterborough had the greatest percentage increase in rateable value from the 2005 Rating List to the draft 2010 Rating List; and what the *(a)* address and *(b)* rateable value in each list was of each. [illegible]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 9 November 2009]*: The following table shows the rateable value on the 2005 Rating List and the draft 2010 Rating List for the 50 individual hereditaments in the local authority area of Peterborough that had the biggest percentage increase between the two lists, as at 29 May 2009. These data are consistent with the consultation document titled: "The transitional arrangements for the non-domestic rating revaluation 2010 in England", published on 8 July 2009. A copy of the consultation document is available at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/local government/nndrrevaluation2010

No address information other than postcode is held in the dataset used for the analysis. The address, 2005 list rateable value and 2010 draft list rateable value from the live database for each hereditament in the central and local rating lists are published on the Valuation Office Agency's website. This information is updated weekly:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/

The figures are rounded to the nearest 1,000.

£

Rank	*Rateable value on the 2005 ratings list*	*Rateable value on the draft 2010 ratings list*
1	3,000	15,000
2	2,000	9,000
3	7,000	29,000
4	13,000	50,000
5	13,000	50,000
6	2,000	7,000
7	21,000	70,000
8	2,000	5,000
9	1,000	2,000
10	19,000	61,000
11	8,000	25,000
12	5,000	14,000
13	11,000	32,000
14	2,000	5,000
15	2,000	7,000
16	6,000	18,000
17	3,000	8,000
18	[1]500	1,000
19	5,000	13,000
20	3,000	9,000
21	10,000	25,000
22	9,000	23,000
23	5,000	12,000
24	33,000	85,000
25	6,000	15,000
26	9,000	22,000
27	2,000	5,000
28	15,000	38,000
29	22,000	55,000
30	12,000	30,000
31	1,000	1,000
32	[1]500	[1]500
33	7,000	18,000
34	74,000	182,000
35	16,000	38,000
36	4,000	10,000
37	7,000	17,000
38	13,000	30,000
39	3,000	8,000
40	1,000	3,000
41	2,000	4,000
42	1,000	2,000
43	2,000	5,000
44	11,000	26,000
45	5,000	11,000
46	8,000	18,000
47	4,000	8,000
48	24,000	54,000
49	16,000	36,000
50	4,000	10,000

[1] Less than £500.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Ratepayers occupying over a million properties—60 per cent. of total properties—will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases. This is on top of the wider support available as part of Real Help Now to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average rateable value was for an *(a)* average hereditament, *(b)* hereditament classed as a small business and *(c)* hereditament paying the standard rating multiplier in the local authority area of Peterborough according to the (i) 2005 Rating List and (ii) draft 2010 Rating List. [illegible]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 9 November 2009]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) today (PQ 297432).

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated *(a)* average rateable value on the (i) 2005 and (ii) draft 2010 Rating List and *(b)* percentage change in rateable values between the two lists was for hereditaments in each special category code in the local authority area of Peterborough or nearest comparative local unit of administration. [298682]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 9 November 2009]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) earlier today, (PQ 297432) on the rateable value on the 2005 and draft 2010 Rating List.

I have placed a table of estimates of the percentage change in rateable values by special category code, for the local authority area of Peterborough between the 2005 rating list and the 2010 draft rating list, as at 29 May 2009, in the Library of the House of Commons. These data are consistent with the consultation document titled: "The transitional arrangements for the non-domestic-rating revaluation 2010 in England", published on 8 July 2009. A copy of the consultation document is available at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/local government/nndrrevaluation2010

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Ratepayers occupying over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases. This is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of a two year business rate holiday for port businesses in *(a)* Humber, *(b)* Liverpool and *(c)* other ports which have recently become liable for business rates. [299632]

Barbara Follett: No estimates of the cost of a two year holiday for ongoing business rates for port businesses have been made. The information is not readily available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The review of ports by the Valuation Office Agency is to ensure that all individual business properties within and outside ports are rated fairly to ensure that the burden of contributions to funding local government is shared fairly among businesses around the country.

The Government have listened to the concerns of businesses with significant and unexpected backdated bills, including some businesses within ports. It has legislated to enable such bills to be repaid over an unprecedented eight years rather than in a single instalment, helping affected businesses to manage the impact on their cash flows during the downturn by reducing the amount they are required to pay now by 87.5 per cent.

As at 8 October 2009, local authorities have reported that ratepayers occupying 221 properties within ports had fully discharged their backdated liability and ratepayers occupying a further 200 business properties within ports had been granted a schedule of payments.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the reduction in business rate assessments on newly-rated businesses on Hull docks consequent on the Valuation Office Agency's decision to transfer the charges to Associated British Ports; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures should such a decision be taken in relation to the port businesses in *(a)* Grimsby, *(b)* Immingham and *(c)* Goole. [299633]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

For the port of Hull, some areas have been merged with the assessment for the statutory port on the basis of new information and agreement of the facts between the parties. This reflects the success of the "fast-track" appeals process applied by the Valuation Office Agency to cases involving a backdated liability. Where ratepayers co-operate and provide the information requested, the Agency has been able to review the rating lists and make amendments to reflect new information that has a material affect on the assessment. In the port of Hull this has resulted in a reduction of £1.1 million in the total rateable value of occupations separately assessed for the first time from 1 April 2005.

Where changes have not been made this is either because the facts do not support correction of the rating lists or the parties have not agreed the facts that may still prove material. It is not possible to provide an estimate of whether there will be similar changes in the ports of Grimsby, Immingham and Goole.

Non-Domestic Rates: Sports

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many grounds used for county cricket *(a)* there were on the 2005 Rating List and (b) there are on the draft 2010 Rating List; what method the Valuation Office Agency used to rate the grounds for each list; and what the (i) postal address and (ii) rateable value is of each ground included on each list. [297729]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Members for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman), Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) and Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) today to PQs 294135, 294887, 294903, 294527 and 295703 which state that a table has been placed in the Library of the House showing the number of hereditaments and the total and average rateable values for hereditaments in each special category code on both the 2005 rating lists and the draft 2010 rating lists as at 29 May 2009.

The special category code for county cricket grounds is 082.

The aim of a rating valuation is to arrive at the rental value for the premises at the standard valuation date. For both the 2005 rating lists and the 2010 draft lists the rateable values for county cricket grounds have been assessed by reference to a percentage of fair maintainable trade. The approach has been discussed with, and accepted by, the English and Wales Cricket Board for 2010 and previous rating lists. The addresses and rateable values of county cricket grounds currently listed in the rating lists and draft lists can be viewed on the live rating lists published on the Valuation Office Agency's website at:

www.voa.gov.uk

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

County cricket grounds have benefited from the popularity of the 20:20 game and this has generated significant trading income gains, particularly in the more prominent locations where existing or improved ground facilities have enabled this to be maximised.

All the major grounds will as a consequence see increased rateable values. Yet again the secondary and amateur facilities show a totally different picture with approaching two-thirds benefiting from reduced bills—that is, if available, reliefs do not remove their liability to rates entirely. Across the country, over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation.

There will be a £2 billion relief scheme in order to phase in significant increases in rates bills. For those grounds experiencing substantial increases in rateable values this will limit the increase in their rate bill to 12.5 per cent. in real terms for next year.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many grounds used for *(a)* rugby league and *(b)* rugby union (i) there were on the 2005 Rating List and (ii) there are on the draft 2010 Rating List; what method the Valuation Office Agency used to rate the grounds for each list; and what the (A) postal address and (B) rateable value is of each ground included on each list. [297730]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 4 November 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman), the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) and the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) today (PQs 294135, 294887, 294903, 294527 and 295703) which state that a table has been placed in the Library of the House showing the number of hereditaments and the total and average rateable values for hereditaments in each special category code on both the 2005 Rating Lists and the draft 2010 Rating Lists as at 29th May 2009. These data provide the most up to date published aggregate data for the number of hereditaments.

The Special Category Code for Rugby League Grounds is 241 and for Rugby Union Grounds is 242.

The aim of a rating valuation is to arrive at the rental value for the premises at the standard valuation date. Because of the differing nature of the numerous classes of property valuation officers have to use various valuation methods to arrive at rental value. For both the 2005 Rating Lists and the 2010 Draft Lists smaller rugby grounds have been valued using a rentals approach based on available rental information while larger stadiums have been valued by reference to the contractor's basis with adjustments for ability to pay.

The addresses and rateable values of rugby union and rugby league grounds currently listed in the Rating Lists and Draft Lists can be viewed on the live rating lists published on the Valuation Office Agency's website at:

www.voa.gov.uk

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

The top rugby grounds have experienced significantly increased trading incomes over the five-year revaluation cycle and associated with this has been significant investment in their grounds. At the lower and amateur end of the sport around 70 per cent. of occupiers will see reduced rates bills. Across the country, over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation.

There will be a £2 billion relief scheme in order to phase in significant increases in rates bills. For those grounds experiencing substantial increases in rateable values this will limit the increase in their rate bill to 12.5 per cent. in real terms for next year.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many football stadia *(a)* there were on the 2005 Rating List and *(b)* there are on the draft 2010 Rating List; what method the Valuation Office Agency used to rate the stadia for each list; and what the (i) postal address and (ii) rateable value is of each ground included on each list. [297731]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 4 November 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Members for Meriden, (Mrs. Spelman) Peterborough and Bromley (Mr. Jackson) and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) today, (PQs 294135, 294887, 294903, 294527 and 295703) which state that a table showing the number of hereditaments and the total and average rateable values for hereditaments in each special category code on both the 2005 Rating Lists and the draft 2010 Rating Lists as at 29 May 2009.

The Special Category Code for Football Stadia is 109

The aim of a rating valuation is to arrive at the rental value for the premises at the standard valuation date. Because of the differing nature of the numerous classes of property, valuation officers have to use various valuation methods to arrive at rental value. For both the 2005 rating lists and the 2010 draft lists football stadia have been valued by reference to the contractor's basis with adjustments for ability to pay.

The addresses and rateable values of football stadia currently listed in the rating lists and draft lists can be viewed on the live rating lists published on the Valuation Office Agency's website at:

www.voa.gov.uk

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Premiership clubs, in particular, have experienced massively increased trading incomes over the five-year revaluation cycle and associated with this has been significant investment in their grounds. It is not surprising then that these clubs will typically see rateable values increase. As regards league football clubs about one-third are likely to see rates bills fall. Across the country, over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation.

There will be a £2 billion relief scheme in order to phase in significant increases in rates bills. For those clubs experiencing substantial increases in rateable values this will limit the increase in their rate bill to 12.5 per cent. in real terms for next year.

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the textual description is of each SCAT code used by the Valuation Office Agency. [294508]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) on 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 283-84W. A table showing the numbers of hereditaments for England broken down by full alphanumeric special category code on both the 2005 Rating List and the draft 2010 Rating List at 29 May 2009 has been placed in the Library of the House. These data are consistent with the consultation document titled: "The Transitional Arrangements for the Non-domestic Rating Revaluation 2010 in England", published on 8 July 2009. A copy of the consultation document is available at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nndrrevaluation2010

This table provides the textual description of each scat code used by the Valuation Office Agency. The number of hereditaments in each special category code has been rounded to the nearest 10.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the policy of the Durham Valuation Office is on whether Durham road user charge and a material change for the purposes of *(a)* calculating rateable value of business premises within and near the charging zone and *(b)* domestic valuations of dwellings for council tax within and near the charging zone. [294599]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The advice contained in the Valuation Office Agency's Rating Manual, Volume 2, Section 5—PN1, is that the introduction of the London Congestion Charge was a material change for the purposes of assessing rateable values. The valuation officer for Durham considers the Durham Congestion Charge to have been, similarly, a material change.

The regulations for material change are different for council tax. A proposal would be considered valid only if the introduction of the charging zone was associated with particular changes to the physical state of a dwelling's locality.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 345W, on non-domestic rates, how many assessment deletions were made in each region in each year on the grounds that the property *(a)* had been demolished, *(b)* was incapable of beneficial occupation, *(c)* was being used for residential purposes, *(d)* was exempt from rating, *(e)* had been split into two or more separate rateable premises and *(f)* had been combined with another property into a new, merged rateable premises; and how many assessment deletions were made for any other reason. [297291]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 3 November 2009]:* I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing the number of assessments deleted from the Rating Lists during the period 1 April 2004 to 31 July 2009—this period being consistent with the earlier answer of 12 October 2009.

The table reflects assessments deleted for the following reasons:

Demolished

Exempt

Ceased to be rateable

Reconstituted

Other.

To separately identify assessments deleted specifically because the property is now used for residential purposes or incapable of beneficial occupation could be ascertained only at disproportionate cost.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* takeaway food outlets (predominantly off premises), *(b)* restaurants and *(c)* cafes there were on the (i) 2005 and (ii) draft 2010 rating list; what the total rateable value was of the properties in each category at each revaluation; what methodology the Valuation Office Agency used to rate the properties in each category at the (A) 2005 and (B) 2010 revaluation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of that methodology. [298308]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Members for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman), Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) and Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) today to PQs 294135, 294887, 294903, 294527 and 295703 which state that a table has been placed in the Library of the House showing the number of hereditaments and the total and average rateable values for hereditaments in each special category code on both the 2005 rating lists and the draft 2010 rating lists as at 29 May 2009.

The special category code for takeaway food outlet (predominantly off premises) is 442, restaurants 234 and cafes 409.

The aim of a rating valuation is to arrive at the rental value for the premises at the standard valuation date. The methodology used for takeaway food outlets (predominantly off premises), restaurants and cafes were the same for both the 2005 and the draft 2010 rating lists and is based on the comparative rental method.

The five-yearly business rate revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases. This is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria the Valuation Office Agency uses to determine whether facilities which are appurtenant exclusively to individual dwellings but which are separate hereditaments should be liable for non-domestic rates. [299837]

Barbara Follett: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hereditaments were on the Valuation Office Agency's Rating List with SCAT code 030 in each year since 1997; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the Agency's methodology and guidance for valuing bowling greens. [294091]

Barbara Follett: The number of hereditaments within the Rating Lists for England having a SCAT Code 030 (Bowling Greens) is detailed in the table. The Valuation Office Agency's advice on the valuation of bowling greens is contained in Rating Manual Volume 5 Section 970: Sports Grounds: Practice Note 1: Bowling Greens, available on its website:

www.voa.gov.uk

A copy of this will be deposited in the Library of the House of Commons.

The number of properties has been rounded to the nearest 10.

England

1 April	*Number*
2000	1,690
2001	1,710
2002	1,740
2003	1,760
2004	1,720
2005	1,660
2006	1,670
2007	1,700
2008	1,700
2009	1,740

SCAT Code 030 came into effect on 1 April 2000 and therefore the information for the years 1997, 1998 and 1999 is not available.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library an electronic copy of the Valuation Office Agency's dataset of the *(a)* address, *(b)* local authority area, *(c)* 2005 Rating List rateable value and *(d)* draft 2010 Rating List rateable value for each hereditament on the central and local rating lists. [297431]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her today (PQ 297432).

The address, 2005 list rateable value and 2010 draft list rateable value from the live database for each hereditament in the central and local rating lists are published on the Valuation Office Agency's website. This information is updated weekly.

http://www.voa.gov.uk/

The cost of producing a separate electronic copy, duplicating this information, would be disproportionate.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average rateable value is for *(a)* all hereditaments, *(b)* (i) small and (ii) other businesses in (i) England and (ii) each local authority in England according to the (A) 2005 Rating List and (B) draft 2010 Rating List. [297432]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing the average rateable values for all properties, small properties and large properties for England and broken down by local authority on both the 2005 Ratings List and the draft 2010 Ratings List at 29 May 2009. These data are consistent with the consultation document titled: 'The transitioned arrangements for the non-domestic rating revaluation 2010 in England', published on 8 July 2009. A copy of the consultation document is available at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/local government/nndrrevaluation2010

In the 2005 Ratings List, a small property is defined as having a rateable value less than £15,000, or £21,500 in London. In the draft 2010 Ratings List, a small property is defined as having a rateable value less than £18,000, or £25,500 in London. This is the definition proposed in the above mentioned 2010 Transitional Relief consultation document.

The figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand pounds.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will revise his Department's impact assessment for supplementary business rates to take account of the 2010 rates revaluation. [297438]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is not our intention to revise the Business Rate Supplement (BRS) Bill Impact Assessment. Five-yearly revaluations of business rates will not affect the general principles of liability for a business rate supplement.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* lifeboat stations and *(b)* coastguard stations there were on the (i) 2005 and (ii) draft 2010 rating list; what the total rateable value was of stations in each such category at each revaluation; what methodology the Valuation Office Agency used to rate those stations at the (A) 2005 and (B) 2010 revaluation; if he will place in the Library a copy of that methodology; and what the (1) address and (2) individual rateable value on the (x) 2005 and (y) draft 2010 rating list was of each station. [298309]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 9 November 2009]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman), the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) and the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) today to PQs 294135, 294887, 294903, 294527 and 295703, which state that a table showing the number of hereditaments and the total and average rateable values for hereditaments in each special category code has been placed in the Library of the House on both the 2005 Rating Lists and the draft 2010 Rating Lists as at 29 May 2009.

The Special Category Code for Lifeboat Stations is 420 and for Coastguard Stations is 411.

For the 2005 Rating Lists the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) made no recommendation to Valuation Officers as to the methodology to be used to assess either lifeboat stations or coastguard stations. For the 2010 draft Rating Lists, the Valuation Office Agency has recommended that the contractor's basis should be used for the valuation of lifeboat stations. This guidance is contained in the Rating Manual—Volume 5—Section 560 available on the VOA website, under Publications, at:

www.voa.gov.uk

The VOA has not yet provided recommendation to Valuation Officers in respect of coastguard stations. Advice, currently in advanced state of preparation, will agree with the manner in which Valuation Officers have approached coastguard stations in both 2005 and the draft 2010 Lists; this has been valuation by comparison with rented offices and garage/storage premises in the locality.

The addresses and rateable values of lifeboat and coastguard stations currently listed in the 2005 Rating Lists and 2010 Draft Lists can be viewed on the live rating lists published on the VOA's website:

www.voa.gov.uk

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Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases. This is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Charities, such as the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, receive an automatic 80 per cent. relief from business rates on any property they occupy for charitable purposes. Furthermore, local authorities may increase this relief to 100 per cent. and, where they have done so, the charity will be paying no business rates at all.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* wine bars, *(b)* vineyards/wineries, *(c)* public houses/pub restaurants (national scheme) and *(d)* breweries (national scheme) there were on the (i) 2005 and (ii) draft 2010 rating list; what the total rateable value was of properties on each category on each list; what methodology the Valuation Office Agency used to rate each property in each category; if he will place in the Library a copy of that methodology; and what the (A) address and (B) rateable value on the (1) 2005 and (2) draft 2010 rating list was of each (x) vineyard/winery and (y) brewery (national scheme). [298310]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 9 November 2009]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman), the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson), and the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) today (PQs 294135, 294887, 294903, 294527 and 295703) which state that a table showing the number of hereditaments and the total and average rateable values for hereditaments in each special category code has been placed in the Library of the House on both the 2005 Rating Lists and the draft 2010 Rating Lists as at 29 May 2009.

The Special Category Code for Wine Bars is 303, Vineyards/Wineries 294 and public houses/pub restaurants (national scheme) 226-227 and breweries (national scheme) 031.

The aim of a rating valuation is to arrive at the rental value of the premises at the standard valuation date. For both the 2005 Rating Lists and the 2010 Draft Lists the rateable values for wine bars, public houses and breweries have been assessed in line with guidance contained in the Rating Manual—Volume 5—Sections 825 and 140 available on the VOA website, under Publications, at:

www.voa.gov.uk

Vineyards are predominantly agricultural but any processing buildings or retail outlets will be valued on a comparative rental basis.

The addresses and rateable values of wine bars, vineyards/wineries, public houses/pub restaurants and breweries currently listed in the Rating Lists and Draft Lists can be viewed on the live rating lists published on the Valuation Office Agency's website at:

www.voa.gov.uk

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases. This is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* pet grooming parlours, *(b)* kennels and catteries and *(c)* animal boarding establishments there were on the (i) 2005 and (ii) draft 2010 rating list; what the total rateable value was of the properties in each category at each revaluation; what methodology the Valuation Office Agency used to rate properties in each category at the (A) 2005 and (B) 2010 revaluation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of that methodology. [298311]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman), the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) and the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) today, (PQs 294135, 294887, 294903, 294527 and 295703) which state that a table has been placed in the Library of the House showing the number of hereditaments and the total and average rateable values for hereditaments in each special category code on both the 2005 Rating Lists and the draft 2010 Rating Lists as at 29 May 2009. These data provide the most up to date published aggregate data for the number of hereditaments and rateable values.

The Special Category Code for Pet Grooming Parlours is 424, Kennels and Catteries 143 and Animal Boarding Establishments 013.

The aim of a rating valuation is to arrive at the rental value of the premises at the standard valuation date. For both the 2005 Rating Lists and the 2010 Draft Lists the rateable values for kennels and catteries and animal boarding establishments have been assessed in line with guidance contained in the Rating Manual—Volume 5—Section 215 available on the VOA website, under Publications, at:

www.voa.gov.uk

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases. This is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Non-Domestic Rates: Zoos and Wildlife Parks

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many zoos and safari parks *(a)* there were on the 2005 Rating List and *(b)* there are on the draft 2010 Rating List; what method the Valuation Office Agency used to rate each of the premises for each list; and what the (i) postal address and (ii) rateable value is of each zoo or safari park included on each list. [297718]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Members for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman), Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) and Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) earlier today, (PQs 294135, 294887, 294903, 294527 and 295703), which state that a table has been placed in the Library of the House showing the number of hereditaments and the total and average rateable values for hereditaments in each special category code on both the 2005 Rating Lists and the draft 2010 Rating Lists as at 29 May 2009.

The Special Category Code for Zoos and Safari Parks is 304.

The aim of a rating valuation is to arrive at the rental value of the premises at the standard valuation date. For both the 2005 Rating Lists and the 2010 Draft Lists the rateable values for zoos and safari parks have been assessed in line with guidance contained in the Rating Manual—Volume 5—Section 1130 available on the VOA website at, under Publications, at:

www.voa.gov.uk

The addresses and rateable values of zoos and safari parks currently listed in the Rating Lists and Draft Lists can be viewed on the live rating lists published on the Valuation Office Agency's website at:

www.voa.gov.uk

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. Since the 2005 revaluation, there has been a growth in public interest in wildlife and, in particular, in observing wild animals. Zoos and safari parks have seen visitor numbers grow and this in turn has increased the value of their property. It is only fair that this is reflected in new rateable values.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact of revaluation on the minority with bill increases. This is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Parking: Valuation

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria the Valuation Office Agency uses to determine the rateable value of reserved parking spaces. [299930]

Barbara Follett: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Parliament Square: Planning Permission

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to Lord Avebury of 20 July 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 283WA, on Houses of Parliament: demonstrations, whether his Department has issued guidance on the circumstances in which a permanent encampment outside Parliament would require planning permission; and which body is the local planning authority for Parliament Square. [295814]

Mr. Ian Austin: Communities and Local Government has not been asked to provide any guidance from Westminster city council, the local planning authority for Parliament Square. Management of Parliament Square Gardens is the responsibility of the Greater London Authority.

Planning Permission

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons his Department is proposing to end the regulatory requirement that planning notices be published in newspapers. [296423]

John Healey: No decision has been taken on this issue. The Killian Pretty Review recommended giving greater flexibility to local planning authorities to determine the best methods of notifying the public about planning applications. In July we published a consultation paper seeking views on whether we should make some changes to the publicity arrangements for applications.

The consultation period ended on 23 October and I am currently considering the responses to this consultation exercise.

Planning Permission: Advertising

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effectiveness in notifying the public of planning applications of the placing of notices in *(a)* local newspapers and *(b)* in other publications; and if he will make a statement. [298535]

John Healey: In response to a recommendation made by the Killian Pretty Review, we issued a consultation paper in July 2009, 'Publicity for Planning Applications', which sought views on whether changes should be made in relation publicising planning applications, including the option of removing the statutory requirements to publicise certain applications in newspapers. This consultation paper included an initial assessment on the impact of this option in Annex 1. I am currently considering responses to this consultation exercise.

Population: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the projected population of each Lancashire constituency in the next five years. [299862]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Ports: Planning Permission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has made an assessment of the merits of monitoring planning applications for marina developments. [300069]

Mr. Ian Austin: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Regeneration: Hendon

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding his Department has made available for regeneration schemes at *(a)* Grahame Park, *(b)* West Hendon and *(c)* Spur Road and Stonegrove in Hendon constituency; and if he will make a statement. [298702]

John Healey: The funding from the public purse is broken down as follows:

Grahame Park

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has committed £13 million, with a start on site of 27 February 2007 and expected completion of March 2011. £7 million growth funding was also allocated in 2006 to 2008, for the replacement of the rail bridges at Aerodrome road.

West Hendon

The HCA has committed £15.7 million, broken down into Phase 1 of £1.21 million (start on site expected September 2010); Phase 2 of £4.9 million (start on site expected September 2010); Phase 3 of £9.6 million; £4 million of growth funding has been allocated as well.

Spur Road and Stonegrove

The HCA has agreed this week to a Kickstart allocation of £10 million, which will bring total public monies committed to £18 million (that includes a pre-Kickstart allocation of £8 million).

Regeneration: Liverpool

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what recent representations he has received on Arena Housing and its operations in the Anfield area of Liverpool; [299766]

(2) what recent representations he has had on Liverpool city council's regeneration strategy for the Anfield area of Liverpool; [299767]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with local community groups on the regeneration of Anfield; and if he will make a statement. [299768]

John Healey: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Regional Planning and Development: Thames Gateway

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* central Government departments, *(b)* public corporations, *(c)* local authorities, *(d)* executive agencies, *(e)* non-departmental public bodies, *(f)* partnership bodies, *(g)* regional quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations and *(h)* other public sector bodies are involved in the Thames Gateway development. [293251]

Mr. Malik: Full details of the governance and delivery structures for the Thames Gateway are set out at Annex B of the Thames Gateway Annual Report 2008-09, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

Rented Housing

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average *(a)* council and *(b)* private sector rent was in (i) Birmingham, (ii) the West Midlands, (iii) inner London, (iv) outer London and (v) England excluding London in (A) 1980, (B) 1990, (C) 2000 and (D) each of the last five years. [299116]

John Healey: The following table provides average weekly rent figures for council dwellings. Reliable estimates for earlier years are not available.

Average weekly council rent rates[1] [2]

£

	Birmingham	*West Midlands*	*Inner London*	*Outer London*	*England excluding London*
2000-01	41.91	41.31	—	—	—
2004-05	49.84	49.28	66.62	66.52	49.11
2005-06	52.23	51.59	70.12	68.74	51.23
2006-07	54.63	54.11	73.63	71.46	53.54
2007-08	57.42	57.32	77.17	76.24	56.93
2008-09[3]	59.38	59.95	80.58	78.56	59.37

'—' Indicates data are not available

[1] Average rent data for 2003-04 and onwards are based on a standardised 52 week collection. Data prior to 2003-04 may have been reported on various different collection.

[2] Average rent data are based upon data reported by stock-owning local authorities that have provided information.

[3] Average rent data for 2008-09 are provisional and will be updated when stock data at the start of the following financial year become available.

Source:

Average rent rates from Housing Revenue Account (HRA) second subsidy claim form. Total stock data from Housing Revenue Account (HRA) audited base claim form (2004-05 to 2007-08) and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) second subsidy claim form (2000-01, 2008-09).

Average free market monthly rents (mean) for private tenants by region in England are published on the Communities and Local Government website in table 734. Estimates for the West Midlands, London and England are available in this table for all years from 1995-96 and 1996-97 to 2006-07 and 2007-08. These rent estimates are based on data from the Survey of English Housing and a two-year rolling average is used as sampling variability is too great to provide a reliable indication of change between years at regional level. Reliable estimates below the regional level or for earlier years are not available.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/141656.xls

Scout Solutions Projects

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been recovered from Scout Solutions Projects Limited in relation to the project to create mobility services for social tenants since 2006; what percentage of his Department's overall costs the project represented; and if he will make a statement. [299362]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the written parliamentary question of 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1996W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mobility services for social tenants funded by his Department and its predecessors have been provided by Scout Solutions Projects Limited in each year since 2004. [299363]

Mr. Ian Austin: From May 2004 until January 2007 Scout Solutions Projects Limited provided the Seaside and Country Homes Scheme, HOMES Mobility Scheme, the LAWN Mobility Scheme and the Homeswap service for social tenants funded by the Department.

Sleeping Rough

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 768-70W, on homelessness, which local authorities have not (*a*) conducted a street count and (*b*) provided an estimate of rough sleepers in their area in 2009. [298240]

Mr. Ian Austin [*holding answer 9 November 2009*]: It is not necessary for all local authorities to carry out a rough sleeper counts. Counts are conducted in accordance with CLG guidance which recommend that if an authority does not have more than 10 rough sleepers then it does not need to count, although many authorities do so.

We want to be sure that people who might find themselves sleeping rough in those areas can get the help they need. The intention is to prevent and tackle rough sleeping wherever it occurs.

We no longer ask local authorities that do not count to provide an annual estimate. Therefore the 2009 annual figure is not a national estimate of all the people sleeping in rough in the country but is the total number of rough sleepers found on street counts and shows a continuing reduction of 75 per cent. on the 1998 baseline.

The following local authorities did not conduct a street count in 2008-09:

Adur
Allerdale
Alnwick
Amber Valley
Arun
Ashfield
Ashford
Aylesbury Vale
Babergh
Barking and Dagenham
Barnet
Barnsley
Barrow-in-Furness
Basildon
Basingstoke and Deane
Bassetlaw
Berwick-upon-Tweed
Bexley
Blaby
Blackburn with Darwen
Blackpool
Blyth Valley
Bolsover
Bolton
Boston
Bracknell Forest

Braintree
Breckland
Brentwood
Bridgnorth
Bristol
Broadland
Bromsgrove
Broxbourne
Broxtowe
Burnley
Bury
Cannock Chase
Canterbury
Carlisle
Castle Morpeth
Castle Point
Charnwood
Chelmsford
Cheltenham
Cherwell
Chesterfield
Chester-le-Street
Chichester
Chiltern
Chorley
Christchurch
Colchester
Copeland
Corby
Cotswold
Craven
Crawley
Croydon
Dacorum
Darlington
Dartford
Daventry
Derbyshire Dales
Derwentside
Doncaster
Dover
Dudley
Durham
Ealing
Easington
East Cambridgeshire
East Devon
East Dorset
East Hampshire
East Hertfordshire
East Lindsey
East Northamptonshire
East Riding of Yorkshire
East Staffordshire
Eastbourne
Eastleigh
Eden
Elmbridge
Enfield
Epping Forest
Epsom and Ewell
Erewash
Fareham
Forest Heath
Forest of Dean
Fylde
Gedling
Gloucester
Gosport
Gravesham
Great Yarmouth
Greenwich
Guildford
Hambleton
Harborough
Harlow
Harrogate
Harrow
Hart
Hartlepool
Hastings
Havant
Havering
High Peak
Hinckley and Bosworth
Horsham
Hounslow
Huhtingdonshire
Hyndburn
Ipswich
Isles of Scilly
Islington
Kennet
Kettering
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk
Kingston upon Thames
Knowsley
Leicester
Lewes
Lichfield
Lincoln
Luton
Maidstone
Maldon
Malvern Hills
Mansfield
Melton
Mendip
Merton
Mid Bedfordshire
Mid Devon
Mid Suffolk
Mid Sussex
Middlesbrough
Mole Valley
New Forest
Newark and Sherwood
Newcastle-under-Lyme

North Dorset
North East Derbyshire
North East Lincolnshire
North Hertfordshire
North Kesteven
North Norfolk
North Shropshire
North Tyneside
North Warwickshire
North West Leicestershire
North Wiltshire
Nottingham city
Nuneaton and Bedworth
Oadby and Wigston
Oldham
Oswestry
Pendle
Poole
Preston
Purbeck
Redcar and Cleveland
Redditch
Reigate and Banstead
Ribble Valley
Richmond upon Thames
Richmondshire
Rochdale
Rochford
Rossendale
Rother
Rugby
Runnymede
Rushcliffe
Rushmoor
Rutland
Ryedale
Salford
Sandwell
Scarborough
Sedgefield
Sedgemoor
Sefton
Selby
Sevenoaks
Shepway
Shrewsbury and Atcham
Slough
Solihull
South Bedfordshire
South Bucks
South Cambridgeshire
South Derbyshire
South Gloucestershire
South Hams
South Holland
South Kesteven
South Lakeland
South Norfolk
South Northamptonshire
South Oxfordshire
South Ribble
South Shropshire
South Somerset
South Staffordshire
South Tyneside
Southampton
Southend-on-Sea
Spelthorne
St. Albans
St. Edmundsbury
St. Helens
Stafford
Stevenage
Stockport
Stockton-on-Tees
Stoke-on-Trent
Stratford-on-Avon
Stroud
Suffolk Coastal
Surrey Heath
Sutton
Swale
Swindon
Tameside
Tamworth
Tandridge
Taunton Deane
Teesdale
Telford and Wrekin
Tendring
Test Valley
Tewkesbury
Thanet
The Medway council
Three Rivers
Thurrock
Tonbridge and Mailing
Torbay
Torridge
Trafford
Tunbridge Wells
Tynedale
Uttlesford
Vale of White Horse
Walsall
Wandsworth
Wansbeck
Warwick
Waveney
Waverley
Wealden
Wear Valley
Wellingborough
Welwyn Hatfield
West Berkshire
West Devon
West Dorset
West Lancashire

West Lindsey
West Oxfordshire
West Somerset
West Wiltshire
Weymouth and Portland
Wigan
Windsor and Maidenhead
Wirral
Woking
Wokingham
Wolverhampton
Worcester
Wychavon
Wycombe
Wyre
Wyre Forest.

Social Rented Housing

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* local authority-owned homes and *(b)* homes owned by other social landlords there were in (i) Birmingham, (ii) the West Midlands and (iii) England in (A) 1980, (B) 1990, (C) 1995, (D) 2000, (E) 2005 and (F) the most recent year for which figures are available. [299114]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on the number of council-owned dwellings as at 1 April each year is supplied by local authorities on the annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) returns and is published annually from 1994 to 2008 on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 116:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140882.xls

Reliable estimates of the number of council-owned dwellings for local authorities and regions as at 1 April 1980 and 1990 are not available.

Information on the number of registered social landlord (RSL) owned dwellings as at 31 March each year is collected by the Tenants Services Authority and is published annually from 1997 to 2008 on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 115:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140879.xls

No figures are available for 1980.

The following table shows the number of council-owned and registered social landlord/housing association owned dwellings.

			Number of dwellings owned[2]
	Birmingham	*West Midlands*[3]	*England*[3]
Council-owned[2] *(as at 1 April)*			
1980[1]	[7]—	[7]—	4,764,000
1990[1]	[7]—	[7]—	3,991,000
1995	99,600	440,000	3,564,600
2000	88,600	354,200	3,012,000
2005	70,300	232,000	2,165,500
2008	65,900	213,200	1,870,400
RSL/HA owned (as at 31 March)			
1980			
1990[4]	24,200	54,100	568,300
1995	33,100	102,100	997,800
2000[5]	33,100	149,500	1,272,700
2005[5,6]	38,600	226,500	1,880,600
2008[5,6]	37,300	229,400	2,062,100

[1] Council-owned dwellings figures for 1980 and 1990 have been rounded to the nearest thousand. All other figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred.

[2] Local authorities count the number of dwellings they own that are situated within their administrative boundary.

[3] Figures for the west midlands and England totals include estimated values for missing data.

[4] Figures for 1990 include bedspaces and shared ownership units.

[5] The number of dwellings for 2000, 2005 and 2008 includes general needs social housing rental stock, supported housing stock and housing stock for older people.

[6] Figures for 2005 and 2008 also include bedspaces. From 2005 some general needs stock was reclassified as supported stock. This may have resulted in some of the housing stock for older people being counted as bed spaces rather than dwellings which may have increased the dwelling count.

[7] Data are not available.

Sources:

For council-owned stock: Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (2000, 2005, 2008), Housing Investment Programme (1980, 1990, 1995).

For RSL/HA owned stock: Regulatory and Statistical Return (2000, 2005, 2008), Housing Association Annual Return (Statistics) (1990, 1995)

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 4 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1060W, on council housing, how many social homes have been *(a)* built, *(b)* acquired, *(c)* sold and *(d)* demolished in each year since 1997. [299181]

Mr. Ian Austin: Figures showing the number of homes built and acquired for social rent are included in Live Table 1009 on the CLG website for each year from 1991-92. The figures include both local authority and registered social landlord completions:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table1009.xls

29,370 homes were provided for social rent in 2007-08. This is the third consecutive year these figures have increased.

Figures showing the number of social homes sold to sitting tenants are included in Live Table 678 on the CLG website for each year since 1991-92. The figures include both local authority and registered social landlord completions:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table678.xls

These figures on number of sales of social homes cover only sales to sitting tenants. Shared ownership sales can also take place under low cost home ownership schemes, but these include sales of private homes on the open market.

The following table shows the number of local authority and registered social landlord homes demolished from 2001-02. Figures are not available for earlier years:

	LA demolitions	*RSL demolitions*	*All social housing demolitions*
2001-02	14,500	4,720	19,230
2002-03	11,050	3,600	14,650
2003-04	8,490	6,000	14,540
2004-05	8,450	5,060	13,510
2005-06	6,250	4,570	10,820
2006-07	4,650	3,990	8,640
2007-08	5,100	6,090	11,200
2008-09	n/a	4,480	n/a

Figures on the number of social homes built and acquired are from the Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS), and local authority returns to CLG.

Figures on the number of social housing sales sold to sitting tenants are from Regulatory and Statistical Returns (RSR) from registered social landlords (RSLs) to the Tenant Services Authority (TSA), and quarterly PIB returns from local authorities to CLG.

Figures on local authority demolitions are from Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA) returns to CLG from local authorities.

RSL demolitions are from RSR returns to the TSA. Up to 2004-05, these returns cover all RSLs, in 2005-06 they only include returns from RSLs with at least 250 units, and from 2006-07 they only include returns from RSLs with at least 1,000 units.

All figures are rounded to the nearest 10 units.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* local authority and *(b)* registered social landlord tenants completed home exchanges in each year since 1997. [299361]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 11 November 2009]*: The number of local authority dwellings let through mutual exchanges is reported through the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA). The following table provides this information for each year since 1997-98. Figures for 2008-09 will be published on 26 November.

The transfer of local authority stock to registered social landlords (RSLs) through large scale voluntary transfers (LSVT) is reflected in the falling number of mutual exchanges.

Number of local authority dwellings let through mutual exchanges, England, 1997-98 to 2007-08

Year[1]	*Number*[2]
1997-98	35,200
1998-99	29,900
1999-2000	25,500
2000-01	22,400
2001-02	20,100
2002-03	17,800
2003-04	16,000
2004-05	15,800
2005-06	14,900
2006-07	14,600
2007-08	14,300

[1] Data are reported from 1 April to 31 March each year.

[2] Rounded to the nearest hundred.

Source:

Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA), section D

Information on registered social landlord dwellings let through mutual exchanges is not collected centrally.

Social Rented Housing: Bedfordshire

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps he plans to take to increase the standard of social housing in Mid Bedfordshire constituency in the next 12 months; [295366]

(2) what steps he plans to take to raise the standard of social housing in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* the East of England in the next 12 months. [299083]

Mr. Ian Austin: This Government believe that everyone should have the opportunity to have a decent home. In 1997 our Decent Homes Programme was introduced and all council and housing associations were challenged to meet the Decent Homes Standard. Many will meet this challenge using existing resources. For those that need extra funding this Government have a suite of options that may be applied for. Since 1997 over £33 billion has been invested in improving social housing.

The former Mid Bedfordshire local authority transferred their social housing stock to the Aragon Housing Association who expect to meet the decent homes standard by 2010 (except where tenants have declined work that would bring them up to standard). This has been confirmed by the Tenants Services Authority who are the statutory regulator for the raising of social housing standards, and the regeneration of social housing. The TSA is about to consult on the standards which it will set for Registered Providers from 1 April 2010. The Government are proposing to direct the TSA to set a standard on quality of accommodation.

In June we announced our Housing Pledge bringing forward a further £1.5 billion to build additional affordable homes by:

Expanding the existing programme enabling RSLs (registered social landlords) to deliver additional affordable homes.

Expanding the Kickstart Housing Delivery Programme to help unlock stalled sites and deliver additional affordable housing.

An adequate overall supply of housing is critical to meeting the need for social housing. For instance it gives more opportunities to negotiate for affordable housing provision from developers, whereas an inadequate supply can force up prices and push people into needing social housing, where their preference would be home ownership. In this context targets for overall house building are important. The RSS (Regional Spatial Strategy) for the East of England (which was published by the Secretary of State in May 2008) sets a target for central Bedfordshire of 762 additional dwellings per year. I am pleased to say that central Bedfordshire is one of the areas which is doing well at meeting its target, with an average of 1,240 dwellings built each year between 2001 and 2008.

Social Rented Housing: Foreigners

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what entitlement to social housing each category of non-UK born migrant to the UK has. [293323]

Mr. Ian Austin: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Social Rented Housing: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints about the standard of social housing in Leeds his Department received in the most recent period for which figures are available. [299646]

Mr. Ian Austin: I am not aware that any complaints have been made to the Department, however I am aware that hon. Members including the hon. Member have asked questions about the standard of social housing in Leeds.

Social Rented Housing: Standards

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding was originally planned for the ALMO decent homes programme in respect of those ALMOs gaining two stars on their first inspection in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and what is the revised amount. [299154]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) who manage the day to day delivery of the ALMO Decent Homes programme report that the original planned funding for 2009-10 for ALMOs gaining two stars at their first inspection was £35 million. The revised amount is £14.5 million.

The original amount planned for 2010-11 was £14.6 million. Those ALMOs who gain two stars in 2010-11 will now likely receive funding in 2011-12. As we announced on 17 July, in order to fund the £1.5 billion Housing Pledge to provide new affordable homes, get the construction industry moving and create around 45,000 jobs in the building trade, £150 million has been deferred from the Decent Homes programme into 2011-12.

Social Rented Housing: Sutton

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 13 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 776W, on social housing: standards, whether *(a)* Sutton and *(b)* Havering arms' length management organisations will receive funding under the Decent Homes programme in 2009-10. [299159]

Mr. Ian Austin: This matter is the subject of legal proceedings brought against the Department by the two local authorities. It would therefore not be appropriate to comment further at this time.

Tenant Services Authority

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much the Tenant Services Authority has spent on assessing the financial viability of registered social landlords since its inception; [299230]

(2) how many full-time equivalent employees the Tenant Services Authority employs to assess the financial viability of registered social landlords. [299231]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 10 November 2009]*: The Tenant Services Authority have to date spent £11.7 million on their risk and assurance functions. These include assessing the viability of registered social landlords.

125 full-time equivalent staff are currently employed in the risk and assurance directorate (out of total TSA staffing of 264). Going forward, the TSA will adopt a more targeted approach to viability regulation and will dedicate additional resources to the tenant facing standards. Numbers of staff in risk and assurance will then reduce to fewer than 100.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Gypsy and Traveller site grants were made in each of the last three years; and what the average amount of such a grant was in each of those years. [300052]

Mr. Malik: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bloody Sunday Tribunal of Inquiry

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost to the public purse of the Saville Inquiry has been in each month since January 2005. [295924]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised that the cost of the Bloody Sunday Inquiry to the end of September 2009 is £188.7 million. The costs of the Inquiry for each calendar month since January 2005 are shown in the following table.

	NIO funding	MoD funding	Total
2009-10			
April	67,442	0	67,442
May	351,006	0	351,006
June	105,924	0	105,924
July	171,543	0	171,543
August	301,730	0	301,730
September	240,215	0	240,215
Total	1,237,860	0	1,237,860
2008-09			
April	499,141	25,377	524,518
May	332,889	11,454	344,343
June	189,141	18,812	207,953
July	375,454	21,150	396,604
August	346,626	22,358	368,984
September	406,974	27,884	434,858
October	247,919	27,710	275,629
November	424,443	19,554	443,997
December	362,420	0	362,420
January	628,726	0	628,726
February	381,120	0	381,120
March	672,185	0	672,185
Total	4,867,038	174,299	5,041,337
2007-08			
April	286,425	20,946	307,371
May	325,249	25,896	351,145
June	300,272	15,978	316,250
July	940,194	27,058	967,252
August	338,424	22,305	360,729
September	507,882	17,983	525,865
October	234,884	25,629	260,513
November	462,529	22,189	484,718
December	239,949	21,362	261,311
January	453,054	25,255	478,309
February	599,295	23,167	622,462
March	365,839	22,194	388,033
Total	5,053,996	269,962	5,323,958
2006-07			
April	351,827	22,192	374,019
May	4,033,188	24,689	4,057,877
June	706,742	26,602	733,344
1 July	353,425	42,161	395,586
1 August	954,094	18,323	972,417
September	330,117	21,305	351,422
October	219,749	29,300	249,049
November	716,369	25,984	742,353
December	576,040	27,861	603,901
January	415,493	27,826	443,319
February	360,675	20,670	381,345
March	501,147	18,293	519,440
Total	9,518,866	305,206	9,824,072
2005-06			
April	551,126	38,093	589,219
May	448,943	27,278	476,221
June	665,401	60,196	725,597
July	762,083	53,926	816,009
August	1,201,478	27,437	1,228,915
September	574,566	11,327	585,893
October	662,000	30,054	692,054
November	488,252	31,803	520,055
December	455,719	47,323	503,042
January	439,321	31,390	470,711
February	456,188	36,448	492,636
March	456,892	26,650	483,542
Total	7,161,969	421,925	7,583,894
2004-05			
January	1,325,711	130,649	1,456,360
February	1,629,280	31,696	1,660,976
March	698,762	70,821	769,583
Total	3,653,753	233,166	3,886,919

Northern Ireland Office funding to the Inquiry covers expenditure by the Bloody Sunday Inquiry, including staff, accommodation, IT, travel and legal costs for some participants. Ministry of Defence funding represents the cost of legal representation.

Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the performance of the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland. [299001]

Paul Goggins: The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland supports the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland in carrying out his statutory duties. Its performance against its 2008-09 business plan is assessed in chapter 2 and annexe A of the Chief Electoral Officer's annual report for 2008-09 which can be found at:

http://www.eoni.org.uk/index/plans-and-reports.htm

Christmas

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on Christmas (i) cards, (ii) parties and (iii) decorations in the last 12 months. [299264]

Paul Goggins: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Criminal Records

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland have a criminal record. [298807]

Paul Goggins: There are currently 288,689 people who have records shown on the Northern Ireland Criminal Records Database.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many first-class flights were taken by each Minister in his Department in 2008-09; and what the *(a)* origin, *(b)* destination and *(c)* cost was of each such flight. [298748]

Paul Goggins: Travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code. The information on ministerial flights costing over £500 is published annually by the Cabinet Office in respect of all Departments.

Information in relation to the 2008-09 year can be found on the Cabinet Office website using the following link:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/226022/travel_2008_2009.pdf

There were no first class flights undertaken by Ministers costing less than £500.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his Department's information assurance procedures have been subject to an independent audit. [299381]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office has subjected its information assurance procedures to an independent audit in April 2009 as mandated by the Cabinet Secretary's report into data handling processes across Government and the Security Policy Framework.

Departmental Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* energy rating and *(b)* energy band of each building occupied by his Department and its agencies was in each year for which figures are available. [299699]

Paul Goggins: Information on the energy rating/band of departmental and agency buildings is only available for those buildings that require either an Energy Performance Certificate or a Display Energy Certificate as set out in the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations 2008. The following buildings have a Display Energy Certificate:

Hillsborough Castle—energy rating 110, energy band E;

HMP Maghaberry—energy rating 200, energy band G;

Young Offenders Centre, Hydebank—energy rating 200, energy band G.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department was in the last 12 months. [299592]

Mr. Woodward: No special advisers are provided with an allocated Government car and driver. As with all civil servants, special advisers may use an official car or taxi in properly defined circumstances. Details of such use are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department and its agencies in 2008-09. [299280]

Paul Goggins: Reimbursable expenses claimed by press officers in the Northern Ireland Office (NIO), including its arm's length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its NDPBs, and the Northern Ireland Prison Service is shown in the following table.

	£
NIO	12,510
NI Prison Service	216

The NIO provides press office support to the Compensation Agency, Forensic Science Northern Ireland and Youth Justice Agency. These expenses include travel undertaken in support of Ministers.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with which providers *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies had a contract to provide postal services in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, (iii) between 1 January 2009 and 1 July 2009 and (iv) since 1 July 2009. [299422]

Mr. Woodward: Royal Mail provide external postal services to my Department and Agencies. There were no contracted services for the dates listed.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department and its agencies on procurement under tender because the tender process had been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last 12 months. [299355]

Paul Goggins: There has been no nugatory cost to the Northern Ireland Office, including the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland and its agencies but excluding its non-departmental public bodies, on procurement under tender because the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last 12 months.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of the statistical datasets collected by his Department are published. [299658]

Paul Goggins: It is not possible to answer the question in the form requested. However, the presumption underlying statistical work in the Department is that publication will be made from all statistical datasets collected by the Department and that such statistical datasets will be appropriately archived at a later point.

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department travelled by (i) car, (ii) rail and (iii) air on Government business in each year since 1997. [298548]

Paul Goggins: The nature of the business in my Department requires that Ministers and staff are required to work in both Northern Ireland and London, requiring regular air travel each week. My Department holds the following records in relation to the miles travelled by Ministers and staff.

Ministers

The number of miles flown by Ministers in my Department is set out in the following table.

	Miles flown
2006-07	166,214
2007-08	120,751
2008-09	158,426

The figure for 2006-07 is for scheduled flights only. The figures for 2007-08 and 2008-09 include all flights. Information for previous years is not available. We do not hold information on the number of miles travelled by Ministers by car or rail.

Staff

The following table records the number of miles travelled by staff in their own vehicles, in respect of which they have made claims for reimbursement from the Department.

	Mileage for which expenses claimed
2002-03	622,729
2003-04	563,909
2004-05	623,364
2005-06	745,119
2006-07	845,295
2007-08	739,006
2008-08	767,242

Information for previous years is not available. The number of miles travelled by staff on rail journeys is not available.

The number of air miles travelled by staff is shown in the following table.

	Miles flown
2006-07	2,259,451
2007-08	2,148,384
2008-08	1,973526

Information on previous years is not available.

EC Grants and Loans

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been allocated to Northern Ireland under the *(a)* Peace I, *(b)* Peace II and *(c)* Peace III EU programmes. [297445]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

The European Commission allocated funding to the Northern Ireland Executive under the Peace programmes. The planning and implementation of the EU Peace programmes in Northern Ireland is a devolved matter and information on EU Peace funding is included in the Northern Ireland Executive's budget documents.

Elections

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what representations he has received on changes on electoral law relating to local authorities in Northern Ireland. [299000]

Paul Goggins: The Minister of the Environment in the Northern Ireland Executive and the Northern Ireland Local Government Association have written to me about the arrangements for filling casual vacancies arising in district councils. A full public consultation on this issue was launched on 23 October 2009. The consultation closes on 15 January 2010 and the consultation paper can be found on the Northern Ireland Office website:

http://www.nio.gov.uk/index/public-consultation/documents.htm

Electoral Register

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been *(a)* added and *(b)* deleted from the electoral register for each parliamentary constituency in Northern Ireland in each year since 2005. [299002]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland is responsible for maintaining the register of electors in Northern Ireland. The hon. Member may wish to write to the Chief Electoral Officer directly to obtain information relating to the register.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many schools have *(a)* co-operated and *(b)* declined to co-operate with the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland to seek to ensure that all pupils over the age of 18 years are registered to vote. [299003]

Paul Goggins: This is an operational matter for the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland who is responsible for the registration of electors in Northern Ireland. The hon. Member may wish to write to the Chief Electoral Officer directly to obtain the information he seeks.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent on advertising to encourage voter registration *(a)* in the press, *(b)* on television and *(c)* on the radio in each year since 2005. [299004]

Paul Goggins: The Electoral Commission is responsible for promoting public awareness relating to electoral registration, including advertising in the press, television and radio. The hon. Member may wish to write to the Commission directly to obtain the information he seeks.

Firearms: Licensing

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent representations he has received from the Northern Ireland Policing Board on Police Service of Northern Ireland's policy on the issuing of firearms certificates. [297583]

Paul Goggins: The Secretary of State has received no representations from the Northern Ireland Policing Board in relation to the grant of firearm certificates.

Fireworks: Prosecutions

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of offences involving the use of fireworks in Northern Ireland in each year since 2005. [297586]

Paul Goggins: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Hearing Impaired: Compensation

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his latest estimate is of the amount paid out for hearing loss claims by members and former members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and Police Service of Northern Ireland in the last 10 years. [300109]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Homophobia: Crime

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidents of homophobic crime were recorded in each Police Service of Northern Ireland district command unit area in each of the last 12 months; how many convictions there were in respect of such incidents; and what sentence was imposed in each case. [300087]

Paul Goggins: The information sought on convictions and sentencing is not available, as the court data record the conviction and sentence information in relation to the offence, without recording background information on motivation.

Reduction of hate crime/incidents of homophobic crime for each PSNI district is set out in the following tables.

Homophobic[1] Incidents[2] in Northern Ireland in the 12 Months to September 2009

Policing Area	*2008*			*2009[3]*									*Total*
	Oct	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	
Antrim	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	6
Ards	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Armagh	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Banbridge	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3
East Belfast	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	5	1	0	11
North Belfast	1	4	2	1	1	1	1	5	3	1	2	2	24
South Belfast	3	2	3	1	4	1	2	1	3	1	4	0	25
West Belfast	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	7
Ballymena	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	6
Ballymoney	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	7
Carrickfergus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	5
Coleraine	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Cookstown	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	4
Craigavon	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
Castlereagh	0	1	1	0	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	9
Dungannon and South Tyrone	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3
Down	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
Fermanagh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	4
Foyle	0	1	3	0	1	0	1	1	5	0	3	0	15
Larne	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Limavady	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Lisburn	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	6
Magherafelt	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	6
Moyle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Newtownabbey	2	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	7
North Down	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Newry And Mourne	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	5
Omagh	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	5
Strabane	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
No DCU assigned	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	10	17	22	10	12	13	13	16	28	18	15	10	184

[1] A homophobic incident/crime is defined as any incident/crime which is perceived to be homophobic by the victim or any other person. Homophobia can be defined as a fear or dislike directed towards lesbian, gay or bisexual people, or a fear or dislike directed towards their perceived lifestyle, culture or characteristics.

[2] Homophobic motivated incidents cover all such occurrences, whether a crime has been committed or not. When using incident figures in conjunction with crime figures please note that homophobic motivated crimes are included in the incident figures, and that more than one crime may be recorded in a single incident.

Figures from April 2009 onwards are provisional and may be subject to revision.

Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Homophobic[1] crimes[2] in the 12 months to September 2009

Policing Area	*2008*			*2009[3]*									*Total*
	Oct	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	
Antrim	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	5
Ards	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Armagh	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Homophobic[1] crimes[2] in the 12 months to September 2009

Policing Area	*2008*			*2009*[3]									*Total*
	Oct	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	
Banbridge	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
East Belfast	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	2	1	0	8
North Belfast	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	4	1	2	0	18
South Belfast	3	1	4	1	3	0	1	1	3	1	3	0	21
West Belfast	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	4
Ballymena	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
Ballymoney	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	6
Carrickfergus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	4
Coleraine	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Cookstown	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	5
Craigavon	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	6
Castlereagh	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Dungannon and South Tyrone	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Down	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Fermanagh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Foyle	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	6	0	2	0	13
Larne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Limavady	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Lisburn	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Magherafelt	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Moyle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Newtownabbey	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
North Down	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Newry And Mourne	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	6
Omagh	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	4
Strabane	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	10	10	22	9	7	6	10	10	23	10	12	6	135

[1] A homophobic incident/crime is defined as any incident/crime which is perceived to be homophobic by the victim or any other person. Homophobia can be defined as a fear or dislike directed towards lesbian, gay or bisexual people, or a fear or dislike directed towards their perceived lifestyle, culture or characteristics.
[2] Homophobic motivated incidents cover all such occurrences, whether a crime has been committed or not. When using incident figures in conjunction with crime figures please note that homophobic motivated crimes are included in the incident figures, and that more than one crime may be recorded in a single incident.
[3] Figures from April 2009 onwards are provisional and may be subject to revision.

Source:

Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many complaints relating to the handling by the Police Service of Northern Ireland of cases of homophobic crime were reported in each of the last 12 months. [300101]

Paul Goggins: The Secretary of State and I speak regularly both to the Chief Constable and the chair of the Policing Board on policing issues. While the future of the full-time reserve has been one of a wide range of issues which has been raised, it remains the position that operational decisions affecting the PSNI, including the future of the full-time reserve, are a matter entirely for the Chief Constable.

Inquiries: Finance

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what provision he has made in his Department's budget for the *(a)* Saville, *(b)* Robert Hamill, *(c)* Rosemary Nelson and *(d)* Billy Wright Inquiry in 2010-11. [297190]

Paul Goggins: Provision made in the Northern Ireland Office budget for the *(a)* Saville, *(b)* Hamill, *(c)* Nelson and *(d)* Wright Inquiry in 2010-11 is shown in the following table.

Inquiry	*2010-11 budget (£000)*
Saville	0
Hamill	2,150
Nelson	1,148
Wright	909

No provision has yet been made for the Saville Inquiry. It is anticipated that approximately £300,000 will be required in the financial year 2010-11, assuming operations cease by end April 2010. This is dependent on the inquiry delivering its report to the Secretary of State by the end of March 2010 as indicated by the Tribunal.

Maghaberry Prison

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* Loyalist and *(b)* Republican prisoners have been detained in the separated system at HM Prison Maghaberry in each year since the introduction of that system. [300102]

Paul Goggins: The separated prisoner accommodation in Bush House and Roe House at Maghaberry prison opened in March 2004. The following table provides the average number of prisoners in Republican (Roe) and Loyalist (Bush) separated accommodation for each year up to 31 December 2008.

Annual average population of separated prisoners 2004-08

	Republican Roe House	Loyalist Bush House	Total
2004	27	41	68
2005	29	44	73
2006	29	38	67
2007	35	35	70
2008	30	36	66

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost has been of maintaining the separated system at HM Prison Maghaberry in each year since the introduction of that system; and whether he plans to seek to reduce costs. [300103]

Paul Goggins: The exact costs of maintaining the separate regime are not calculated separately. In addition to the costs incurred in the regime in the accommodation blocks, there are costs associated with activities such as gym and visits, as well as security costs which cannot be disaggregated.

However progress has been made in reducing the associated costs since the regime began in March 2004 and they are kept under review.

Northern Ireland Independent Monitoring Commission

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the findings of the latest Independent Monitoring Commission report; and what discussions he has had with the Chief Constable about it. [300105]

Paul Goggins: The 22nd Independent Monitoring Commission Report confirms that the threat from dissident republicans is more serious than at any time since they first reported. The Secretary of State has regular discussions with the Chief Constable regarding this and other matters.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have *(a)* died and *(b)* been injured as a result of crimes involving the use of knives in each year since 2005. [298999]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Police Cautions

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland on use of cautions and other non-court disposals. [300098]

Paul Goggins: I have had discussions with the Chief Constable, in addition to detailed discussions between Northern Ireland Office officials and the Police Service of Northern Ireland, about the introduction of non-court disposals which could help deliver a more effective criminal justice system and maximise time spent by officers on front-line policing. The Chief Constable joined me on 6 October when I announced my intention, in preparation for the devolution of policing and justice, to begin drafting legislative provisions to introduce new non-court disposals including conditional cautions.

Under arrangements in Northern Ireland introduced following the Criminal Justice Review, police cautions are authorised by the Public Prosecution Service.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many police cautions have been issued for each offence in each policing district in Northern Ireland in each of the last 12 months; and how many such cautions have been for *(a)* either way offences and *(b)* indictable-only matters. [300099]

Paul Goggins: This is an operational matter for the Police Service of Northern Ireland. I have asked the Chief Constable to reply directly to the hon. Lady, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time reserve members were transferred into the regular police in Northern Ireland in each year since 1997. [300108]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Police: Reserve Forces

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Chief Constable and *(b)* the Chairman of the Policing Board on the future of the full-time reserve. [300106]

Paul Goggins: In the course of his duties the Secretary of State speaks regularly to the Chief Constable and the Chairman of the Policing Board on a wide range of policing and security issues.

Operational decisions affecting the Police Service of Northern Ireland, including the future of the Full-Time Reserve, are made by the Chief Constable in light of his assessment of the security situation and policing requirements. The Policing Board is responsible for holding the Chief Constable to account.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many full-time reserve members there were in the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each year since 1997. [300107]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many individuals released on licence from prison in Northern Ireland before 2000 were questioned in connection with a possible breach of the terms of that licence between 2000 and 2007. [300121]

Paul Goggins: Information is not readily available about the numbers who have been questioned by the police in connection with a possible breach of the conditions of their licence. Of persons released on licence before 2000, a total of 23 have had their licences revoked between 2000 and 2007. Of these, 13 persons were released under the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Act 1998 and 10 under the Prison Act (Northern Ireland) 1953.

Prisoners Transfers

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prisoners sentenced in Northern Ireland have been transferred to prisons in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the Republic of Ireland in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [300100]

Paul Goggins: A total of eight prisoners transferred, temporarily or permanently, as set out in the following table. The majority of the transfers were to facilitate family contact which is an important element in reintegration on release.

Month	*Prisoner numbers:*	*Transferred to:*	*Comments:*
November 2008	3	England	2 permanent transfers 1 temporary transfer
December 2008	0	—	—
January 2009	0	—	—
February 2009	0	—	—
March 2009	0	—	—
April 2009	0	—	—
May 2009	0	—	—
June 2009	1	England	Permanent transfer
July 2009	0	—	—
August 2009	0	—	—
September 2009	1	Scotland	Temporary transfer
October 2009	3	2 to England	One permanent transfer to England; One temporary transfer to England
		1 to Scotland	One transfer to Scotland, under a Mental Health order

Prisoners: Per Capita Costs

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average daily cost is of housing an adult prisoner in Northern Ireland; and whether he plans to seek to reduce that cost. [300096]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Prison Service does not calculate the cost per prisoner but rather the average cost per prisoner place, which is published in its Annual Report and Accounts.

In 2008-09, the average cost per prisoner place was £81,340 with the daily cost per prisoner place £223.

The Prison Service seeks to improve efficiency year on year and the target cost per prisoner place, set by Ministers, for 2009-10 is £78,750.

Proof of Identity: Fingerprints

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on how many occasions suspects have been arrested in Northern Ireland on the basis of mistaken identity and released after fingerprinting in the last 12 months. [300094]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Prostitution

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of illegal brothels in operation in each local authority area in Northern Ireland. [297727]

Paul Goggins: It is difficult to assess the levels of illegal brothels in precise terms given that those operating them tend to relocate frequently to avoid drawing the attention of police.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland Analysis Centre is currently undertaking research into trends in the local vice trade. To date, no results are available in relation to this analysis.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of trends in the level of the illegal vice trade in Northern Ireland in each of the last two years. [297725]

Paul Goggins: It is difficult to assess the levels of illegal vice trade in precise terms given that those operating brothels tend to relocate frequently to avoid drawing the attention of police. Operation Pentameter 2 was launched in October 2007 and ended in March 2008 and has made a significant contribution to our understanding of the scale of human trafficking and the illegal sex trade in Northern Ireland.

Up to 31 March 2009, 11 victims of trafficking were recovered by PSNI:

six were victims of sexual exploitation

two were victims of domestic servitude

three were victims of forced labour and all of these victims were adult women

The PSNI Analysis Centre is currently undertaking research into trends in the local vice trade. To date, no results are available in relation to this analysis.

Reoffenders

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people with previous convictions for murder received after their release a further conviction for either manslaughter or murder. [298155]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is not obtainable within the time available. I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Special Purchase of Evacuated Dwellings Scheme

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make it his policy to transfer the operation of the Special Purchase of Evacuated Dwellings scheme to his Department prior to a transfer to any new Department of Justice in the Northern Ireland Executive. [298375]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Housing Executive administer the Special Purchase of Evacuated Dwellings Scheme under the provisions of the Housing (NI) Order 1988. I have no plans to transfer the administration of the scheme to the Northern Ireland Office.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Police Service of Northern Ireland speed camera operations were carried out in each district command unit area in each of the last 12 months; and how much accrued from fines imposed as a result of these operations in each area. [300095]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Theft: Metals

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidences of theft of metals were recorded in each Police Service of Northern Ireland district command unit area in each of the last 12 months; how many convictions there have been in relation to such thefts; and what penalty was imposed in each case. [300097]

Paul Goggins: The information sought on convictions and sentencing in relation to theft of metals is not available, as the conviction and sentencing in association with these crimes would be recorded under the general offence of theft. Such detail is not recorded in relation to theft.

Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females are serving sentences in the Juvenile Justice Centre in Northern Ireland; and how many of those young people had been eligible for punishment or rehabilitation in the community. [300088]

Paul Goggins: As of 11 November 2009 there were *(a)* 10 males, including one due for release on 11 November 2009 and *(b)*, no females serving sentences in the Juvenile Justice Centre.

It has not been possible to collate information relating to pre-custodial sentences in the time available before Prorogation. I will write to the hon. Lady and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females are detained in the Juvenile Justice Centre in Northern Ireland on remand awaiting trial. [300089]

Paul Goggins: As of 11 November 2009 *(a)* there were 12 males and *(b)* no females remanded to the Juvenile Justice Centre.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females are detained in the Juvenile Justice Centre in Northern Ireland. [300090]

Paul Goggins: As of 11 November 2009 there were *(a)* 22 males, including one due for release on 1 November 2009 and *(b)* no females in the Juvenile Justice Centre.

Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre: Drugs

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his most recent assessment is of the level of drug *(a)* use and *(b)* addiction in (i) prisons and (ii) the Juvenile Justice Centre in Northern Ireland. [300092]

Paul Goggins: It has not been possible to answer this question before Prorogation. I will write to the hon. Lady and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre: Per Capita Costs

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average daily cost is of housing a young offender in the Juvenile Justice Centre in Northern Ireland; and whether he plans to seek to reduce that cost. [300091]

Paul Goggins: It has not been possible to answer this question before Prorogation. I will write to the hon. Lady and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre: Prisoner Escapes

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* escapes and *(b)* attempted escapes there have been from the Juvenile Justice Centre in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [300104]

Paul Goggins: There has been *(a)* one escape from the Juvenile Justice Centre in 2007 and *(b)* one attempted escape in 2009.

HOME DEPARTMENT

101 Calls

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been *(a)* spent and *(b)* allocated for projects relating to the national non-emergency three-digit telephone number in each of the last three years. [299894]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent members of staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies are working on projects relating to a national non-emergency three-digit telephone number. [299895]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons the minutes of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs meeting from November 2008 are not available [299708]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when a new chair of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs will be appointed; and if he will make a statement. [299885]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 10 November 2009]:* It has not been possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will in future publish a Government response to each recommendation from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. [299886]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 10 November 2009]:* It has not been possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what factors he takes into consideration when taking decisions on recommendations from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. [299887]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 10 November 2009]:* It has not been possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there is a code of practice for members of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. [299888]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 10 November 2009]:* It has not been possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons he rejected the recommendation of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs that cannabis should remain a class C drug. [299889]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 10 November 2009]:* It has not been possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Alcoholic Drinks: Designated Public Places Orders

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on implementing designated public places orders that cover an entire local authority area. [298436]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I will write to the hon. Member.

Animal Experiments

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1518W, on animal experiments, what recent representations he has received on the practice of using death as an experimental endpoint in projects licensed under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986; and if he will make a statement. [298645]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* The Home Office received on 2 November 2009 a report from the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV) which included representations on death as an experimental endpoint in animals used on projects licensed under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. We are considering those representations and will respond accordingly in due course.

Antisocial Behaviour

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1484-86W, on crime: statistics, what the breakdown by category of incident is of the 3,868,002 incidents of anti-social behaviour recorded in 2007-08; [298162]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 835-40W, what the equivalent figures for anti-social behaviour incidents in the same category were for 2007-08. [298164]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I will write to the hon. Member.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders have been issued in *(a)* Doncaster, *(b)* South Yorkshire and *(c)* England since their introduction. [298632]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) became available from 1 April 1999 and data on the number issued currently cover the period to the end of 2007.

Between 1 April 1999 and 31 December 2007, a total of 14,189 ASBOs were issued at all courts in England and 380 were issued at all courts in the South Yorkshire Criminal Justice System area.

Data collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the numbers of ASBOs issued are not available below Criminal Justice System area level.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in which local authority area the most *(a)* anti-social behaviour orders and *(b)* parenting orders have been issued since their introduction; and how many such orders were issued in each of those areas. [298634]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data centrally collected by the Ministry of Justice on the number antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued cover all courts in England and Wales and are not available below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level. ASBOs became available from 1 April 1999. Between 1 April 1999 and 31 December 2007 (latest available) courts within the Greater London CJS area issued the highest number of ASBOs of any CJS area; a total of 1,808.

Parenting orders which can be attached to ASBOs were introduced through the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and implemented nationally on 1 June 2000.

Parenting order data covering the period 2000-08 provided by the Youth Justice Board below show that Sunderland has issued the most parenting orders with a total of 474. This figure includes all categories of parenting orders as set out above which the youth offending teams were aware of. Court data are not comprehensively available for parenting orders. The Department for Children, Schools and Families also collects data on school attendance-related parenting orders.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Bedfordshire

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged between 16 and 18 have *(a)* been given and *(b)* breached an anti-social behaviour order in Mid Bedfordshire constituency in each year since their inception. [299183]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Asylum

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time for processing *(a)* asylum applications and *(b)* applications for leave to remain was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [293061]

Mr. Woolas: In December 2008 we met our targets to conclude 60 per cent. of new cases within six months. That means not only that decisions were taken early but that in a significant proportion of refusals, removal from the UK was effected within six months of application. In 1997 it took on average 22 months merely to reach an initial decision.

There is no leave to remain category that forms an identifiable subset of asylum applications.

Asylum: Appeals

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals there are in the UK who have appealed to the Immigration Appeals Tribunal against a request to grant them refugee status whose appeal has failed and who are still within the jurisdiction. [296404]

Mr. Woolas: The Immigration Appeals Tribunal no longer exists. The present Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) was created on 4 April 2005 by a merger of the Immigration Appellate Authority (IAA) and the Immigration Appeals Tribunal (IAT).

The number of asylum seekers who have their appeals dismissed and the number of failed asylum seekers who are removed from the UK, or voluntarily depart, are published quarterly and can be found on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

The most recent published figures relate to the second quarter of 2009 and show that 1,945 asylum appeals were dismissed by the AIT. In the same quarter, 2,400 failed asylum seekers were either removed from the UK or departed voluntarily.

Asylum: Families

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1871W, on asylum: families, what assessment has been made of the reasons for the reduction in the number of visas issued to overseas nationals under the age of 18 years in the family reunion category between 2004-05 and 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [298187]

Mr. Woolas: I will write to my hon. Friend.

Asylum: Iraq

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unsuccessful asylum seekers have *(a)* been granted a right to remain in the UK, *(b)* been deported to Iraq and *(c)* been taken into detention after a refusal to travel to Iraq in (i) each of the last three years and (ii) 2009 to date. [299800]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Borders: Personal Records

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what data are collected by the UK Border Agency in respect of international rail travellers entering the UK; and what such data will be required to be collected under the e-borders scheme. [296790]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* International rail travellers are subject to the same checks as all other arriving passengers in the UK. Non-European economic area nationals entering the UK by rail are required to complete a landing card which captures up to 14 pieces of information, including bio-data and passport number. EEA nationals are required to provide a passport or national identity card.

Under the e-Borders scheme, the legal obligations on rail carriers are identical to those imposed upon all other modes of transport. The e-Borders system requires carriers to provide the data contained in the machine readable zone (MRZ) of a passport. The eight data fields are: name, date of birth, nationality, gender, travel document type, state of issue, number and expiry date.

In addition to travel document information, carriers may be required to provide other passenger information (OPI) to e-Borders, but only to the extent that it is known to the carrier.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the proportion of exits from the UK recorded by the e-borders scheme in 2009; and what target percentages have been set for each of the next 10 years. [296792]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* e-Borders has set the following two target percentages for the capturing of passenger and crew movements into and out of the UK:

95 per cent. by December 2010

100 per cent. by end of March 2014

The programme is being progressively rolled out throughout 2009, and 91 million per annum passenger movements entering and departing the UK are currently being recorded.

British Nationality: Assessments

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applicants for British citizenship have successfully completed (a) the Life in the UK test and (b) an English for speakers of other languages course in each year since these schemes were introduced. [296757]

Alan Johnson: Since the test was introduced for settlement back in early 2007, a total of 220,726 people have passed the test to obtain settlement (ILR) in the UK. A breakdown of the number of tests taken for Citizenship against those taken for Settlement is given in the following table.

Applicants may take the Life in the UK Test as many times as they wish but records are not kept of how many times each individual applicant takes the test.

(Please note: These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.)

		Citizenship	*Settlement*
4th quarter 2005 (from 1 November)	Passes	5,249	—
	Pass Rate (%)	71.0	
1st quarter 2006	Passes	20,755	—
	Pass Rate (%)	69.4	—
2nd quarter 2006	Passes	24,537	—
	Pass Rate (%)	68.1	—
3rd quarter 2006	Passes	29,708	—
	Pass Rate (%)	67.4	—
4th quarter 2006	Passes	30,402	—
	Pass Rate (%)	66.2	—
1st quarter 2007	Passes	54,725	—
	Pass Rate (%)	70.1	—
2nd quarter 2007	Passes	44,237	26,898
	Pass Rate (%)	64.8	76.3
3rd quarter 2007	Passes Pass	26,130	23,332
	Rate (%)	65.7	74.4
4th quarter 2007	Passes	19,364	18,561
	Pass Rate (%)	68.4	76.1
1st quarter 2008	Passes	29,446	24,004
	Pass Rate (%)	70.2	76.6
2nd quarter 2008	Passes	24,921	23,356
	Pass Rate (%)	68.9	75.6
3rd quarter 2008	Passes	17,247	22311
	Pass Rate (%)	66.2	74.2
4th quarter 2008	Passes	14,974	20,911
	Pass Rate (%)	68.7	76.0
1st quarter 2009	Passes	18,227	24,307
	Pass Rate (%)	70.2	77.8
2nd quarter 2009	Passes	13,796	22,963

		Citizenship	*Settlement*
	Pass Rate (%)	69.1	78.3
3rd quarter 2009 (to 31 August)	Passes	9,506	14,083
	Pass Rate (%)	72.2	78.6

The method of satisfying the ESOL requirements for naturalisation is not recorded on NCID in such a way that it can easily be reported on. (The individual case records would have to be examined—so a disproportionate cost response will have to be given so far as use of the ESOL route for this purpose is concerned.)

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applicants for UK citizenship were found to have submitted fraudulent certificates of *(a)* a pass in the Life in the UK test and *(b)* attendance at an English for speakers of other languages course in each year since these schemes were introduced. [296758]

Alan Johnson: The individual case records would have to be examined as we do not currently hold statistics regarding the submission of fake pass note letters (PNLs) for those that have taken the LitUK route. Earlier this year an applicant was successfully prosecuted and subsequently received a 15 month custodial sentence when they submitted a fake PNL with an Indefinite Leave to Remain application.

No specific records are held for those having submitted bogus ESOL certificates.

All records would also need to be examined and could be done so only at disproportionate cost.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many colleges which provided *(a)* the Life in the UK test and *(b)* the English for speakers of other languages course have been removed from the Government's list of approved educational establishments. [296759]

Alan Johnson: The information is as follows:

(a) At the start of the year there were 92 live test centres, during the year 23 centres have left the network and a further seven have been added. There are currently 76 "live" Life in the UK Test Centres across the country. However we plan to further reduce the number of centres to 60-65 by January 2010. Some are being removed from the network due to their close proximity to existing centres, but the main reason for downsizing the network is in response to declining demand rather than instances of malpractice or improprieties at individual centres.

The existing centres are subject to stringent routine checks by senior Ufi staff to ensure that they meet the required standards.

(b) The Register of Education and Training Providers maintained by the Department for Education and Skills up to 31 March 2009 contains the names of educational establishments, but not the details of the course they teach. Therefore, it is not possible to say how many colleges providing English language courses were removed.

The RETP contained approximately 15,000 registered educational establishments. Of this number, it is estimated that 4,000 establishments provided courses to international students. The UK Boarder Agency register of sponsors has further reduced this number to around 2,000 establishments.

Burglary: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders received a police caution for residential burglary in each of the Cambridgeshire Constabulary basic command units in each year since 1997. [299927]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what grants his Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [292656]

Mr. Woolas: The Department's funding of charities can not be provided, without incurring disproportionate cost.

Christmas

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on Christmas (i) cards, (ii) parties and (iii) decorations in the last 12 months. [299267]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Closed Circuit Television

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the number of closed circuit television cameras monitoring public space in the UK. [298434]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There are no recent estimates of the number of CCTV cameras in the UK.

Crime Prevention

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department has taken to seek to achieve reductions in levels of *(a)* burglary, *(b)* vehicle crime and *(c)* violent crime since 2004. [296251]

Mr. Hanson: I will write to the hon. Member.

Crime: Business

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to collect data on the annual cost of crime to small businesses; and if he will make a statement. [300060]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Crimes of Violence

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the recorded violent crime rate per 1,000 of the population was in each police force area in each year since 1998-99. [298068]

Alan Johnson: Crime rates per 1,000 population for violence against the person offences are shown in Tables A and B. Figures for 1998-99 to 2001-02 are presented separately from figures for 2002-03 to 2008-09 as it is not valid to compare across these time periods due to major changes in the Home Office Counting Rules for recorded crime.

In April 2002, the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) brought in a more victim-focused reporting system, where victim accounts had to be accepted unless there was credible evidence to the contrary. This was proposed by the Association of Chief Police Officers as a response to a report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary report called 'On the Record' to ensure better consistency in recording throughout England and Wales. This is estimated to have had the effect of increasing recording of violence against the person by 23 per cent. in 2002-03 (it is also thought to have increased figures in the following year as forces continued to adjust to the new recording practice but precise estimates of this effect are not available).

Police recorded violence against the person offences contain the full spectrum of assaults from pushing and shoving, with no physical harm, through to murder and around half of violent crime results in no injury. Less than 3 per cent. of violence against the person offences are the more serious offences of homicide, attempted murder and grevious bodily harm with intent.

Table A: Recorded violence against the person offences by police force area, 1998-99 to 2001-02

				Rates per thousand (population)
Force	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
Avon and Somerset	8	9	10	12
Bedfordshire	9	9	9	10
Cambridgeshire	8	8	9	10
Cheshire	7	6	6	6
Cleveland	5	5	5	6
Cumbria	11	10	8	11
Derbyshire	9	10	9	10
Devon and Cornwall	8	8	8	8
Dorset	4	5	6	7
Durham	8	9	9	10
Dyfed-Powys	10	11	11	11
Essex	5	6	7	7
Gloucestershire	6	8	9	8
Greater Manchester	14	16	15	16
Gwent	20	25	26	16
Hampshire	7	9	10	9
Hertfordshire	4	4	4	4
Humberside	11	10	10	11
Kent	8	8	8	8
Lancashire	7	7	8	11
Leicestershire	11	12	11	12
Lincolnshire	7	6	6	8
Merseyside	9	10	11	11
Metropolitan Police	17	20	21	22
Norfolk	7	8	7	7
Northamptonshire	9	8	8	9
Northumbria	9	10	9	11
North Wales	7	9	8	11
North Yorkshire	7	7	7	7
Nottinghamshire	12	13	14	16
South Wales	9	10	11	12
South Yorkshire	5	6	6	6
Staffordshire	10	12	16	18
Suffolk	6	8	9	11
Surrey	5	7	7	6
Sussex	10	11	11	12

Table A: Recorded violence against the person offences by police force area, 1998-99 to 2001-02

Force	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*Rates per thousand (population)* *2000-01*	*2001-02*
Thames Valley	5	7	7	8
Warwickshire	4	4	5	8
West Mercia	6	7	7	15
West Midlands	12	16	18	20
West Yorkshire	8	8	8	9
Wiltshire	7	7	7	7
England and Wales	10	11	11	12

Notes:

1. All crime rates are based on population estimates for the middle of the previous calendar year (i.e. mid 2007 population estimates for 2008-09 crime rates). The population estimates are supplied by the Office for National Statistics.
2. Data for City of London are included in the England and Wales total but are not shown at force level due to the small resident population in this area.
3. The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table B: Recorded violence against the person offences by police force area, 2002-03 to 2008-09

Force	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*Rates per thousand (population)* *2007-08*	*2008-09*
Avon and Somerset	14	18	21	20	20	17	17
Bedfordshire	14	15	18	17	16	13	12
Cambridgeshire	18	19	18	14	14	14	13
Cheshire	11	14	16	19	17	15	14
Cleveland	12	17	21	26	25	23	19
Cumbria	12	14	19	19	16	16	14
Derbyshire	16	17	17	16	16	17	14
Devon and Cornwall	15	16	18	16	15	14	13
Dorset	12	13	15	17	17	16	15
Durham	13	11	12	17	17	14	12
Dyfed-Powys	13	16	17	15	15	12	11
Essex	14	16	16	15	14	14	13
Gloucestershire	14	15	17	18	19	16	15
Greater Manchester	20	21	21	21	22	20	18
Gwent	27	23	23	21	21	18	17
Hampshire	12	20	21	21	22	21	19
Hertfordshire	7	12	16	16	16	13	11
Humberside	19	29	27	25	27	21	20
Kent	12	13	14	17	17	15	15
Lancashire	11	19	22	20	19	17	16
Leicestershire	17	19	23	22	21	19	19
Lincolnshire	14	15	16	16	15	14	13
Merseyside	17	19	25	25	19	15	14
Metropolitan Police	25	25	27	26	24	23	23
Norfolk	13	14	16	15	14	12	10
Northamptonshire	16	17	17	16	16	16	14
Northumbria	18	18	16	16	17	14	14
North Wales	17	16	18	18	21	16	16
North Yorkshire	11	13	16	15	13	12	10
Nottinghamshire	16	18	19	21	21	19	18
South Wales	17	18	17	17	16	18	17
South Yorkshire	10	11	17	23	22	19	16
Staffordshire	19	22	22	23	23	19	19
Suffolk	12	14	15	15	15	13	13
Surrey	8	9	10	11	13	13	12
Sussex	12	13	18	18	19	16	13
Thames Valley	12	14	16	17	19	20	19
Warwickshire	11	13	12	13	14	14	11
West Mercia	17	19	15	13	14	13	12
West Midlands	20	22	21	22	22	21	19
West Yorkshire	15	22	21	23	20	18	16
Wiltshire	10	10	10	12	14	13	12

Table B: Recorded violence against the person offences by police force area, 2002-03 to 2008-09

Rates per thousand (population)

Force	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
England and Wales	16	18	20	20	19	18	16

Notes:

1. All crime rates are based on population estimates for the middle of the previous calendar year (i.e. mid 2007 population estimates for 2008-09 crime rates). The population estimates are supplied by the Office for National Statistics.
2. Data for City of London are included in the England and Wales total but are not shown at force level due to the small resident population in this area.
3. The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Crimes of Violence: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders received a police caution for grievous bodily harm in each of the Cambridgeshire Constabulary basic command units in each year since 1997. [299928]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Cybercrime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of unauthorised access to computer material with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences have been recorded in the last four years; and how many convictions have resulted. [298077]

Alan Johnson: Information is not available in the form requested. The relevant offences are those under section 2 of the Computer Misuse Act 1990. In terms of police recorded crime, such offences are recorded under Home Office offence classification 53B 'Preserved other fraud and repealed fraud offences (pre Fraud Act 2006)'. Section 2 offences cannot be separately identified from other offences recorded within that classification.

Information showing the number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences under Section 2 has been provided by the Ministry of Justice for 2004 to 2007. Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

The recorded crime and courts proceedings datasets are not directly comparable. The police recorded crime data are based on the number of offences recorded in each financial year. Prosecutions and convictions data are collected by the Ministry of Justice and are based on the number of offenders. These data are published on a calendar year basis and are counts of persons.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for "unauthorised access with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences", under Section 2 of the Computer Misuse Act 1990, England and Wales, 2003 to 2007[1,2]

Offence: Unauthorised access to computer material with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences

	Number
2004	2
2005	7
2006	4
2007	—

[1] The number of defendants found guilty in a particular year may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year and they were found guilty at the Crown Court in the following year, or the defendant was found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of unauthorised access to computer material have been recorded in the last five years; and how many convictions have resulted. [298078]

Alan Johnson: Information is not available in the form requested. The relevant offences are those under section 1 of the Computer Misuse Act 1990 as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006. In terms of police recorded crime, such offences are recorded under Home Office offence classification 53B 'Preserved other fraud and repealed fraud offences (pre Fraud Act 2006)'. Section 1 offences cannot be separately identified from other offences recorded within that classification.

The Ministry of Justice are responsible for the collection of data on those found guilty of offences under section 1 of the Act. However, I understand that convictions data for this offence are not available prior to 2008. Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

The recorded crime and courts proceedings datasets are not directly comparable. The police recorded crime data are based on the number of offences recorded in each financial year. Prosecutions and convictions data collected by the Ministry of Justice are based on the number of offenders. These data are published on a calendar year basis and are counts of persons.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many offences of unauthorised modification of computer material have been recorded in the last four years; and how many convictions have resulted; [298080]

(2) how many offences of directly or indirectly impairing access to any programme or data held in a computer to which their access is unauthorised have been recorded in the last four years; and how many convictions have resulted. [298081]

Alan Johnson: Information is not available in the form requested. The relevant offences are those under section 3 of the Computer Misuse Act 1990 as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006. In terms of police recorded crime, such offences are recorded under Home Office offence classification 53B 'Preserved other fraud and repealed fraud offences (pre Fraud Act 2006)'. Section 3 offences cannot be separately identified from other offences recorded within that classification.

Information showing the number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences under section 3 has been provided by the Ministry of Justice for 2004 to 2007. Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

The recorded crime and courts proceedings datasets are not directly comparable. The police recorded crime data are based on the number of offences recorded in each financial year. Prosecutions and convictions data are collected by the Ministry of Justice and are based on the number of offenders. These data are published on a calendar year basis and are counts of persons.

Defendants found guilty at all courts for "unauthorised modification of computer material[1]," under section 3 of the Computer Misuse Act 1990, England and Wales, 2003 to 2007[2, 3]

				Number
Offence	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Unauthorised modification of computer equipment[1]	3	4	4	3

[1] With effect from October 2007, this offence was revised under the Police and Justice Act 2006 to "unauthorised acts with intent to impair, or with recklessness as to impairing, operation of computer, etc".

[2] The number of defendants found guilty in a particular year may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year and they were found guilty at the Crown court in the following year, or the defendant was found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many first-class flights were taken by each Minister in his Department in 2008-09; and what the *(a)* origin, *(b)* destination and *(c)* cost was of each such flight. [298750]

Mr. Woolas: A list of all first class flights taken overseas which cost more than £500 can be accessed at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/226022/travel_20082009.pdf

All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2009. [299548]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department's information assurance procedures have been subject to an independent audit. [299378]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* energy rating and *(b)* energy band of each building occupied by his Department and its agencies was in each year for which figures are available. [299311]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 11 November 2009]:* It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in his Department were employed on the management of freedom of information requests submitted to his Department in each year since 2005; and how much his Department spent on the management of such requests in each such year. [299124]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental ICT

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* original planned completion date, *(c)* current expected completion date, *(d)* planned cost and *(e)* current estimated cost is for each information technology project being undertaken by his Department and its agencies; and if he will make a statement. [287912]

Mr. Woolas: The information is in the following table:

Business owner	*Programme*	*Start date*	*Original panned completion date*	*Expected completion date*	*Planned cost*	*Current estimated cost*
IPS	National Identity Service—IPS element	April 2007	2015[1]	2015[1]	£5.550 billion (10 years April 2007 to April 2017 May 2007 Cost Report)	£4.575 billion (10 years October 2009 to October 2019 October 2009 Cost Report)
UK Border Agency	Identity Cards for Foreign Nationals	April 2007	March 2009	August 2010	£9.6 million (for IT costs only—high level estimate at start of project)	£12.4 million
UK Border Agency	Immigration Casework (ICW)	April 2008	June 2015	June 2015	£370 million	£366 million
UK Border Agency	Points Based System (PBS)	April 2005	July 2009	March 2010	£39.8 million	£39.3 million
UK Border Agency	e-Borders	November 2007	March 2014	March 2014	£849.5 million	£827.1 million
Shared Services	SBS Programme	2005	2011	2011	£32 million	£36 million (Scope of programme widened, including enhanced technology and establishment of Procurement Centre of Excellence)
Home Office	Next Generation IST Transformation Programme (NGISTT)	August 2008	Strategic infrastructure programme currently in planning, completion date yet to be determined, but post 2015.	Strategic infrastructure programme currently in planning, completion date yet to be determined, but post 2015.	Planned investment (Extend and Blend Project) is £90 million cost, offset against savings of £198 million over six years. Future programme spend on additional projects is yet to be determined.	Planned investment (Extend and Blend Project) is £90 million cost, offset against savings of £198 million over six years. Future programme spend on additional projects is yet to be determined.
Home Office	Interception Modernisation Programme	April 2006	2016	2016	Up to £2 billion	Initial estimates of the implementation costs are up to £2 billion over a ten year rollout period. The running costs will be offset by the phasing out of the costs of current systems.
Home Office	OSCTNet	December 2008—Full Business Case sign off	September 2009	March 2010	£16.2 million	£18.9 million for original scope, plus £2 million to cover additional users

[1] 2008 Delivery Plan includes a Scheme Release in 2015 as above.

The scope of this answer includes only those projects valued at more than £5 million and has been limited to those in the Home Office Core and its Executive Agencies.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with which organisations his Department has had exclusivity agreements for information technology *(a)* hardware and *(b)* software in each of the last five years; how many such agreements have been breached in each year; and what the cost to his Department was of each breach. [299691]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of his Department's presenting officers were appointed *(a)* in 2007, *(b)* in 2008 and *(c)* between 1 January and 31 October 2009. [299234]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 November 2009]:* It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department was in the last 12 months. [299590]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department and its agencies in 2008-09. [299374]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with which providers *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies had a contract to provide postal services in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, (iii) between 1 January 2009 and 1 July 2009 and (iv) since 1 July 2009. [299436]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department and its agencies on procurement under tender because the tender process had been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last 12 months. [299352]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the statistical datasets collected by his Department are published. [299666]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many helplines his Department operates; and how much his Department has received from the operation of such helplines in each of the last three years. [294982]

Mr. Woolas: The information is as follows:

Home Office

The core Home Office does not operate any helplines. However, a number of Home Office business areas fund or contribute to the running of helplines via third sector partners and external groups but do not receive any revenue from these arrangements.

Identity and Passport Service

There are currently five Identity and Passport Service (IPS) helplines which all use 0300 numbers. The amount of revenue IPS received from the 0870 services in the years before IPS changed to 0300 numbers is given in the following table.

Criminal Records Bureau

The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) has six helplines which use 0870 numbers. The CRB does not receive any income from non-geographical contact telephone numbers.

UK Border Agency

The agency is currently reviewing moving all of its main Contact Centre numbers to 0300 numbers and has recently transferred its Sponsorship and Employer Helpline to 0300. Information about numbers and revenue is given in the table.

Identity and Passport Service

	Number of helplines	Revenue received from helplines (£)
2008	5	320,898.90
2007	5	353,423.40
2006	5	383,433.30

All revenue received was used to offset the costs of running the services provided.

UK Border Agency

	Number of helplines	Revenue received from helplines (£)
2008-09	11	0
2007-08	4	0
2006-07	4	0

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* average time to answer a call, *(b)* average waiting time for members of the public during a call, *(c)* percentage of calls dropped or not answered and *(d)* average length of calls was in call centres run by his Department and each of its agencies in the latest period for which figures are available. [299390]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been made of the level of failure demand in call centres run by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies. [299391]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Deportation

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hertsmere (Mr. Clappison) of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 527-28W, on deportation, how many of the cases referred to in the table involved deportations or exclusions specifically on the grounds of fomenting extremism. [298172]

Alan Johnson: I have taken the term "fomenting extremism" as equating to unacceptable behaviour under the policy announced by my right hon. Friend, the then Home Secretary on 24 August 2005. The powers to exclude or deport an individual on the grounds of their unacceptable behaviour are directed at foreign nationals who foment hatred or violence in support of their extremist beliefs. I can confirm that during the period in question, 106 individuals were excluded and one individual was deported, on these grounds.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of immigration removals were made successfully at the *(a)* first and *(b)* second attempt in each of the last five years. [299226]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 November 2009]:* It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

DNA: Databases

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of crimes detected on the basis of a DNA profile of a person who had no previous convictions which had been retained on the National DNA Database in the last year for which figures are available. [298922]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I will write to the hon. Member.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will bring forward proposals for the reform of the National DNA Database in light of the recent ruling of the European Court of Human Rights; and if he will make a statement. [299152]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Drugs

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress is being made in international efforts to combat the trade in illegal drugs; and if he will make a statement. [298975]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 10 November 2009]:* The United Nations World Drugs Report 2009 indicates the markets in traditional opium-using countries in south-east Asia are declining and the markets for heroin, cocaine and cannabis in the developed world are stable or declining. It also indicates that the global problem with amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) may be worsening, with increased seizures globally and diversifying locations and methods of manufacture.

The Government support the existing international control system under the three United Nations drug conventions. They continue to advocate the principle established by the UN General Assembly Special Session on drugs that the problem needs to be addressed through strategies and measures on both supply and demand. The Government also believe that there continues to be a need to focus on the harms that drug misuse and trafficking cause to society, communities and individuals.

The Government will continue to work with partners internationally to reduce the harm from drugs. Areas of international work that are relevant to combating the trade in illegal drugs include harmonisation between the work of the UN drugs bodies and other UN activity, for example in HIV/AIDS transmission from needle use; data collection and analysis standards; cooperation between states in supply reduction; controlling the flow of precursor chemicals; developing further and using more effectively practices found to reduce supply and demand; and methods of infrastructural development to make alternatives to drug crop cultivation viable for poor farmers.

Examples of practical work by the Government and its agencies include the provision of projects to develop new livelihoods for farmers in drug producing areas. The Serious and Organised Crime Agency, working with law enforcement agencies and other bodies in the UK and abroad, has contributed to 85 tonnes of cocaine seizures in the past year and we have seen a decline in reported street level purity of cocaine in this country.

Drugs: Misuse

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) on what date he first discussed with Professor David Nutt his concerns about Professor Nutt's public statements on the Government's policy on drugs; [297879]

(2) what his policy is on whether the *(a)* Chairman and *(b)* members of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs may comment in public on the Government's policy on drugs; [297880]

(3) what the *(a)* job description and *(b)* remit is of (i) the Chairman and (ii) the members of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs; [297881]

(4) whether the actions of the Chairman and members of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs are governed by a code of conduct. [297906]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* The then Home Secretary explained in Parliament, on 9 February 2009, that she had had a telephone conversation that morning with Professor Nutt in which she made it clear that she felt that his comments went beyond the scientific advice that she expected from him as chair of the ACMD. The then Home Secretary also wrote to Professor Nutt on 25 February 2009 and explained that

> "it was not the role of the Chair of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs to initiate public debate as to the appropriateness or otherwise of the Government's policy framework".

It was explained that it is the role of the Home Secretary to make decisions based on all relevant factors as they relate to public protection and that the role of advisers is to provide advice based on the evidence. The duty of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs is set out in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. The job descriptions and remit of the chair and members of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs are set out, in accordance with the remit of the council as described in the Misuse of Drugs Act, in the applicants pack when applying for a position on the council.

Guidelines for the chairman and members of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, including those on speaking in public, are provided by the Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees. In addition, the chair and members of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs are expected to comply with the council's own code of practice, which is based on the wider Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees.

Entry Clearances

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visas have been rescinded on the grounds that a spouse signed under duress or threat of violence; and what steps his Department takes against the perpetrators of such duress or violence. [291741]

Mr. Woolas: I will write to the hon. Member.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to reduce the backlog in processing visa applications. [297679]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 November 2009]:* The UK Border Agency aims to process all visa applications in line with published service standards. These are:

To complete 90 per cent. of straightforward, non-settlement applications in not more than a week, 98 per cent. in not more than two weeks, and 100 per cent. in not more than 12 weeks.

To complete 90 per cent. of non-straightforward, non-settlement applications in not more than three weeks, 98 per cent. in not more than six weeks and 100 per cent. in not more than 12 weeks.

To complete 95 per cent. of applications for settlement visas in not more than 12 weeks and 100 per cent. in not more than 24 weeks.

Performance against these targets is published monthly on our website at

www.ukvisas.gov.uk

There are no global backlogs. However, where circumstances arise that mean that we are unable to meet these targets in particular locations, we aim to take quick and effective action to improve performance and reduce any backlog that has built up. For example, we have recently deployed additional resources to our visa operation in Pakistan and aim to clear the current backlogs there by mid November.

Entry Clearances: China

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visa applications were received by the visa application centre in Beijing between January and September 2009; and how many entry clearance *(a)* officers and *(b)* managers are employed at the British Embassy in Beijing to work on such applications. [298722]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* A total of 29,025 student visa applications were received by the Visa Application centre in Beijing during the period January to September 2009. There are currently 14 Entry Clearance Officers and four Entry Clearance Managers working in the Visa Section in Beijing. They are supported by 34 locally engaged Entry Clearance Assistants. Entry clearance staff process a range of visa applications and not just those of a single type e.g. student visa applications.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many students have switched from a Tier 4 visa to a Tier 2 visa since 2008. [299729]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals were lodged against refusal of visas for Pakistani nationals to visit the UK in each of the last five years. [291359]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* I will write to the hon. Member.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department took in response to the report of visa handling in Pakistan written by senior immigration officer Chris Taylor in 2006. [291[illegible]90]

Alan Johnson: It is the policy of successive Governments not to comment on internal reports which have been "leaked" to the press.

Fixed Penalties

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty fines *(a)* have been issued and *(b)* remain outstanding or not paid in (i) Ribble Valley parliamentary constituency, (ii) Lancashire and (ii) England in each of the last five years. [298761]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* Information on the number of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for motoring offences in Lancashire and England and Wales is provided in the following table. The table does not show data for Ribble Valley constituency as the data reported to the Home Office are provided at police force area level only.

Information on the number of FPNs which remain outstanding is not reported to the Home Office.

Information showing the number of persons issued with a penalty notice for disorder (PND) and the outcome of those paid in the Lancashire police force area and in England and Wales, 2003-07 (latest available) can be viewed in the table. PNDs figures cannot be broken down below police force area, therefore information for figures for Ribble Valley constituency is not available.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Data for Scotland must be taken up through the Scottish Executive and data for Northern Ireland must be taken up through the Northern Ireland Office.

Fixed penalty notices issued for all offences by offence group and police force area

	2003[1]	2004[1]	2005[1]	2006	2007
Lancashire	236,000	95,200	80,000	73,024	70,076
England and Wales[2]	3,637,200	3,435,300	3,203,000	3,018,281	2,599,983

[1] Years prior to 2007 and 2006, figures have been rounded.

[2] Figures unable to be provided for UK, instead England and Wales data provided.

Forced Marriage

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* ministerial colleagues, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* others on forced marriages. [298219]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information is as follows:

(a) I chair the quarterly Inter-Ministerial Group on Domestic and Sexual Violence, which covers the issue of forced marriage, and also attend the Forced Marriage Multilateral meetings.

These meetings bring together Ministers from Departments across Government, such as the Ministry of Justice; the Department for Children, Schools and Families; the UK Border Agency; the Department of Health; the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; and the Department of Communities and Local Government.

(b) The Home Office chairs quarterly meetings with the Government office leads on interpersonal violence. Forced marriage is a standing item on the agenda and information from these meetings is disseminated to practitioners within the regions on a local level, including local authorities.

The Forced Marriage Unit also runs a substantial national outreach and training programme, speaking at over 90 events each year to community groups, statutory agencies, including local authorities, and the voluntary sector.

(c) The Forced Marriage Unit chairs quarterly round table meetings on forced marriage, which unite statutory and voluntary agencies to discuss ways to tackle the issue.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department has allocated to tackling forced marriages in 2009-10. [298220]

Mr. Alan Campbell: In the financial year 2009-10, the Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office jointly fund the Forced Marriage Unit £278,000 to provide some of the following key services:

free and confidential advice and support to victims, concerned third parties and professionals, on the potential dangers of being forced into marriage

an extensive outreach programme to raise awareness of the issue

providing consular assistance ranging from action through the UK courts to rescue missions and immigration assistance in reluctant sponsor cases, where a victim of forced marriage is being pressured into sponsoring their spouse's visa for entrance into the UK

the Domestic Programme Fund which supports local projects tackling forced marriage

Funding of £31,250 has also been provided to the FMU for the development of the multi-agency Forced Marriage Practice Guidelines, released in July 2009, which should help practitioners work more closely together to better identify and protect children and adults at risk of forced marriage.

The Home Office also allocated a total of £3.5 million to the nine Government Offices for the regions and the Home Office Crime Team in Wales for 2009-10 to support local initiatives to tackle domestic violence. A number of regions have chosen to allocate specific funding to local initiatives tackling forced marriage in their areas.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce the number of forced marriages. [298223]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) launched a new two-year action plan for 2009 and 2010 earlier this year with the following key objectives:

To strengthen safeguards in order to ensure that all victims of forced marriage receive sympathetic, effective and joined up support from all relevant UK agencies; and

To eliminate forced marriage in the UK by challenging the practice before it takes place, through working with communities, victims and Governments to overcome the culture of acceptance or of denial.

To support this work, the FMU have launched the following initiatives;

The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 was implemented on 25 November 2008 with statutory guidance and offers civil remedies to victims or potential victims of forced marriage. The Act allows the court the power to make Forced Marriage Protection Orders (FMPO) which can be used to prevent forced marriages occurring or to protect victims who have already been forced into marriage.

New guidelines in March to ensure UKBA staff taking entry clearance decisions have the tools to identify any risk of abuse such as where a person may be vulnerable to a forced marriage. Where that is present we will make clear what the rights of victims are and how the marriage visa will be dealt with.

New practice guidelines (July) for frontline professionals to help them to work more closely together and better identify and protect children and adults at risk of forced marriage.

A Forced Marriage Guide for MPs (July), which gives MPs information on forced marriage and the steps they should take if they are approached by constituents, including how to handle immigration cases.

The Domestic Programme Fund (June) which offers specialist organisations the opportunity to apply for funds for project activities which support delivery of the 2009-10 action plan.

An e-learning training package is currently being developed to support the practice guidelines and further equip practitioners with the tools to respond to and support victims and potential victims of forced marriage.

Hizb ut-Tahrir

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received on the proscription of Hizb ut-Tahrir; and if he will make a statement. [298346]

Mr. Hanson: Since January 2009, the Home Office has received one piece of correspondence requesting the proscription of Hizb ut-Tahrir. We have also received one parliamentary question relating specifically to Hizb ut-Tahrir, and I refer the hon. Member to 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 13WA.

Proscription is a tough but necessary power to tackle terrorism. Decisions on proscription must be proportionate and based on evidence that a group is concerned in terrorism as defined in the Terrorism Act 2000. Hizb ut-Tahrir, along with other organisations that cause us concern, is kept under continuous review. As and when new material comes to light it is considered and the organisation re-assessed as part of that process.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people arrested and charged with human trafficking offences were prosecuted in each of the last five years; how many of those cases resulted in *(a)* a custodial sentence, *(b)* a non-custodial penalty, *(c)* the case being dropped due to a lack of evidence and *(d)* the defendant being cleared of all charges; and if he will make a statement. [292341]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I will write to the hon. Member.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in respect of how many individuals of each nationality *(a)* reasonable and *(b)* conclusive grounds for having been trafficked have been determined under the National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking. [298926]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 10 November 2009]:* 347 nationals from 50 countries have been referred to the National Referral Mechanism in the period April to September. Of these there have been 190 positive "reasonable grounds" decisions, of people from 35 different countries.

Of the 190 there have been 51 positive "conclusive grounds" decisions of people from 11 countries.

Identity Cards

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether identity cards produced for issue to foreign nationals have been found to contain defective chips *(a)* before and *(b)* after issue. [294289]

Alan Johnson: A small number of chips (less than 0.5 per cent.) within identity cards for foreign nationals failed our stringent quality control procedures and were not issued as a result. No chips have been found to be defective after issue.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for identity cards are expected to be received from British and Irish citizens in each of the next 12 months. [298069]

Alan Johnson: The Identity and Passport Service will be making a range of material available to inform the public about when British citizens will be able to apply for a national identity card. However, until we start issuing identity cards to members of the public later this year in Greater Manchester, it would be difficult to make any precise forecast of the number of people likely to take up the option of purchasing an identity card in the next 12 months.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether British citizens will be able to apply for an identity card online. [298072]

Alan Johnson: It is currently not possible for British citizens to apply for an identity card online. At public launch, members of the public will be able to request an application pack from the direct Government website at:

www.directgov.uk/identity

or call the service centre on 0300 330 0901.

We have a programme of ongoing development to create an online passport application, and we will be developing an online capability similar to the passport online application process for 2012.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 184W, on identity cards, what action has been taken to inform employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Passport Service that they could apply for an identity card from 20 October 2009. [298385]

Alan Johnson: The information is as follows:

(a) A number of Home Office staff based in London whose work is connected to the implementation of National Identity Service, and are therefore able to apply for a card under the terms of the initial commencement order, have received an e-mail from the Identity and Passport Service, notifying them that they could apply for a national identity card as part of the operational trials.

(b) The Identity and Passport Service executive directors sent an e-mail to senior managers throughout the target areas (London, Merseyside and Durham) informing them of the start of operational trials and the option for staff to volunteer to apply for a card.

At the same time a news item was also placed on the intranet informing all staff that they could apply for a card from 20 October, as part of the operational trials, which linked to the guidance on how to do so.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 184W, on identity cards, on which date identity cards will be extended to residents of Greater Manchester and to airside workers at Manchester and London City airports. [298387]

Alan Johnson: A further commencement order under the Identity Cards Act 2006 will specify when certain residents of Greater Manchester and airside workers at Manchester and London City airports will be able to apply for an identity card. This will be notified to Parliament in the usual way.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 184W, on identity cards, how many applications have been received from people working in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Identity and Passport Service. [298388]

Alan Johnson: The commencement order that came into force on 20 October allows for a limited number of IPS and Home Office staff as well as airport operator staff at Manchester and London City airports to be among the first to apply for identity cards. So far more than 1,000 people have volunteered to apply for an identity card.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the first annual report by the National Identity Scheme Commissioner is expected to be published. [299387]

Meg Hillier: It has not been possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals who are not required to have a compulsory identity card have applied for a voluntary national identity card. [299388]

Meg Hillier: It has not been possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Illegal Immigrants: France

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with the French authorities on closure of illegal camps near Calais. [293796]

Mr. Woolas: The UK and French Governments maintain regular contact in the area of immigration. I met with Eric Besson, the French Minister for Immigration, Integration, National Identity and Solidarity-based Development, at the UK-France Summit on 6 July 2009. Both Ministers committed to further action to combat illegal immigration, including through strengthening security at the shared border and taking resolute action to reduce the pull factors for illegal immigrants and criminal networks.

The Home Secretary also met with Eric Besson at the EU Justice and Home Affairs Council on 21 September.

Both Ministers stressed the importance of the joint UK-France commitment to combat illegal immigration in northern France, and the Home Secretary supported the French operation to close the illegal camps near Calais. The Home Secretary also reiterated the work being undertaken to strengthen not only the shared border, but that of Europe as a whole.

Immigrants: Domestic Violence

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of offences of domestic violence against women with insecure immigration status. [299093]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent progress his Department has made on the review of conditional funding for non-UK national victims of domestic violence. [299094]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the average number of women of insecure immigration status who are victims of domestic violence each year. [299095]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to assist women of insecure immigration status who are victims of domestic violence while their immigration status is being determined. [299096]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications there were under the Domestic Violence Rule in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008; and what percentage of those applications were granted. [299805]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average it took to process applications made under the Domestic Violence Rule in 2008. [299806]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It has not been possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Immigrants: Employment

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the effect on domestic workers requiring a visa of the cost of visa renewal. [299652]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Immigration Controls

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many organisations have had their sponsorship licences revoked by the UK Border Agency. [294388]

Alan Johnson: 24 organisations had their sponsorship licences under the points based system revoked by the UK Border Agency up to 3 November 2009.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many calls the UK Border Agency card verification service has received in each of the last 12 months; and how many such calls resulted in the identification of a false card. [294389]

Alan Johnson: Since identity cards for foreign nationals went live on 25 November 2008 up until mid October 2009, 260 calls have been received by the card verification service broken down by month as follows:

	Number
November 2008	0
December 2008	5
January 2009	2
February 2009	[illegible]

	Number
March 2009	[1]—
April 2009	[1]—
May 2009	5
June 2009	24
July 2009	46
August 2009	46
September 2009	78
October 2009	[2]54
Total	260

[1] Unknown
[2] To date

None of these calls resulted in the identification of a false card. There are no figures for February, March, April 2009 because the verification service's management information system was not operating. However, by the end of April the system was repaired and is now able to accurately record figures.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many documents of each type submitted by applicants for a sponsor licence had been reported as lost on the latest date for which figures are available. [294392]

Alan Johnson: There have been no recorded instances of documents supplied by sponsors as part of their application having been lost by the UK Border Agency.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sponsors under the points-based immigration system have been downgraded from an A to B rating in each of the last 36 months. [294398]

Alan Johnson: The number of sponsors downgraded under the points based immigration system from A to a B rating for each month that records have been kept is:

	Number
July 2009	18
August 2009	25
September 2009	9

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times level *(a)* 1 and *(b)* 2 users of sponsorship management systems have been found to have disclosed their system access details to other people. [294399]

Alan Johnson: To date evidence shows that one college has breached the requirements for use of the sponsor management system. The college's sponsor licence has been revoked.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many security breaches of the UK Border Agency sponsorship management system there have been; and what the cause was of each such security breach. [294409]

Alan Johnson: There have been no recorded instances of any security breaches of the sponsorship management system.

Immigration Controls: Ministers of Religion

Chris Grayling[illegible]k the Secretary of State for the Home Departm[illegible] how many ministers of religion of each *(a)* nationality and *(b)* country of birth have (i) applied for and (ii) been granted permits under tier 2 of the points-based immigration system. [294396]

Alan Johnson: I will write to the hon. Member.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dependants of ministers of religion of each *(a)* nationality and *(b)* country of birth have (i) applied for and (ii) been granted permits under tier 2 of the points-based immigration system in each of the last 36 months. [294397]

Alan Johnson: I will write to the hon. Member.

Immigration: Pakistan and Afghanistan

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from how many people from *(a)* Pakistan and *(b)* Afghanistan a visa for entry to the UK has been withdrawn (i) because the visa application was found to have been (A) fraudulently made and (B) accompanied by forged documents and (ii) for reasons of national security in the last 10 years. [294286]

Alan Johnson: Although we collect information on the number of visas revoked after they have been issued, we are unable to identify the specific data requested except at disproportionate cost.

Independent Safeguarding Authority

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what key performance indicators have been established for the Independent Safeguarding Authority. [289338]

Meg Hillier: A number of KPIs and priorities are detailed within the ISA's Business Plan 2009-10. These include:

Inform those entitled to know of a decision being made within one day

60 per cent. of stakeholders say they are clear about the role of the ISA

75 per cent. of complainants satisfied by the way the ISA handled the complaint

85 per cent. of complaints resolved within 21 days

All invoices paid within 30 days

Downtime of casework IT system below 5 per cent

Increase the rate of recruitment applications from minority groups by 10 per cent

Caseworker development programme 95 per cent. attendance by operational staff

80 per cent. of staff say they understand the values of the ISA

90 per cent. of staff probation reports completed within six months

Staff sickness average eight days per employee

90 per cent. of staff return to work interviews undertaken within five days

Staff turnover no more than 10 per cent.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of applications the Independent Safeguarding Authority will process in its first 12 months. [299396]

Mr. Hanson: It has not been possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Interpreters: Finance

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the police have spent in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Essex on interpreters for (i) suspects, (ii) charged individuals and (iii) victims of crime who are unable to speak English in each of the last three years. [296938]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 3 November 2009]*: The chief officers of each police force are responsible for making sure that appropriate arrangements are in place for provision of suitably qualified interpreters. This information is not collected centrally.

Licensing Laws

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for licences by a person who had previously held a licence were refused in each of the last three years because he or she had served alcohol to a person who was inebriated. [299567]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It has not been possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 15 September 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs Aara Sadid. [297633]

Alan Johnson: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 10 November 2009.

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister for Borders and Immigration expects to reply to the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire's letter concerning Mr. Peter Edmondson of Duffield, Derby, dated 16 June 2009, reference: PM/OP/Edmondson. [297976]

Mr. Woolas: My officials wrote to the right hon. Member on 19 May 2009, in response to his letter of 30 April about this case. We have no record of receiving a further letter of 16 June on behalf of Mr. Peter Edmondson. We will be happy to look into the matter on receipt of a copy.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he intends to reply to the letter to him dated 24 September 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr Adnan Khakoo. [299051]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to my right hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he intends to reply to the letter to him dated 3 September 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr Ejaz Haider. [299052]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to my right hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he intends to reply to the letter to him dated 29 September 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr Moudgal Sudhindra Gollahalli Venkatanarayaner. [299053]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to my right hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood of 28 September 2009 on the case of Tuet Chun Teung, Ref: B35067/9. [299256]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister for Borders and Immigration will respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Canterbury of 20 May and 21 July 2009 on the gap entrant visa requirements. [299756]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister for Borders and Immigration will respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Canterbury of 15 June and 1 September 2009 on changes in visa requirements for academics. [299757]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister of State plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 9 October 2009, on children in immigration detention centres. [299911]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 30 September from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Shafiq Ahmed. [300076]

Alan Johnson: It has not been possible to respond to my right hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 5 October from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Miss Prisia Joy Kalua. [300079]

Alan Johnson: It has not been possible to respond to my right hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 29 September from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Frederick Opoku. [300080]

Alan Johnson: It has not been possible to respond to my right hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

National Identity Register

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer to Lord Stoddart of 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, House of Lords, columns 26-27WA, on the National Identity Register, how many fingerprints *(a)* per person and *(b)* in total he expects to be stored on the National Identity Register from 2012. [299315]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It has not been possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to Lord Stoddart of 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, House of Lords, columns 26-27WA, on the National Identity Register, what estimate has been made of the number of citizens who will have their fingerprints stored on the National Identity Register by 2022. [299316]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It has not been possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals are recorded on the National Identity Register. [299389]

Meg Hillier: It has not been possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

National Public Order Intelligence Unit

Mr. Plaskitt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what definition of extremist is used in respect of compiling data on the National Public Order Intelligence Unit (NPOIU); what forms of evidence gathered by forward intelligence teams are retained by the NPOIU; how many individuals are identifiable by spotter cards on the NPOIU database; and how many individual names are recorded on the NPOIU database. [298339]

Mr. Hanson: Domestic extremism refers to the crime and disorder committed by the small number of individuals and organised groups who are prepared to break the law in support of single-issue causes. It does not refer to views or opinions.

The National Public Order Intelligence Unit (NPOIU) collects information and intelligence so that the police can carry out threat and risk assessments to safeguard public safety, the right to peaceful protest, and to prevent crime and disorder. The data are also used to support the investigation of crimes that are carried out in furtherance of causes linked to protest activity.

The collection of intelligence by NPOIU is carried out in compliance with the relevant legislation which sets out the method and purpose for its collection, retention and dissemination.

Decisions to retain or dispose of information by the police service are carried out on a case by case basis, based on their assessment of the type and amount of information held on an individual and whether this is proportionate for policing purposes, and on risk-based decisions about public protection.

The use of spotter cards by local forces is a matter for local Chief Officers. Owing to the manner in which data are stored on the NPOIU database, which includes, for example, open source material such as newspaper articles, it is not possible for the police to provide an exact figure on how many names are referenced on the database. Information kept on any individuals would be dealt with under a Subject Access Request made under the Data Protection Act.

Offences Against Children: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place for the sharing of information on online images of child abuse with *(a)* EU and *(b)* non-EU countries. [298917]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) is the reporting point for illegal images of child sexual abuse for the UK. If the reported images are found to be within the EU, the IWF will notify the relevant INHOPE Hotline in the country concerned, and will also inform the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP). CEOP work closely with the Virtual Global Taskforce, and with the law enforcement agencies of other countries, to tackle such sites, and to arrest those responsible for them. If the country is outside the EU, but has an INHOPE hotline, the same process will apply.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with the Crown Prosecution Service on the number of prosecutions for offences of viewing online images of child abuse which have not been pursued. [298918]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has not had any recent discussions with the Crown Prosecution Service on this matter, but officials are in regular contact to ensure that where an issue arises it is addressed. The Government do not distinguish between images found on or offline, as the person is prosecuted for the offence, and not the medium through which that offence took place.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* training has been provided to the police on the relationship between viewing images of child abuse online and child abuse. [298919]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre offers a range of training courses for professionals (mainly police officers but also others who work in child protection) designed to do two things. Firstly, to help delegates better understand the nature of sexual offending and secondly to impart the skills and knowledge that can better equip professionals to deal with the difficult and distressing nature of this crime. Many of CEOP's training courses are based on material gathered during investigations, and case studies of sex offenders interviewed by CEOP's dedicated Behavioural Analysis Unit (BAU). CEOP also offers operational consultancy through its BAU to forces and child protection agencies across the UK.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much and what proportion of his Department's budget has been allocated to tackling child abuse and the viewing of images of child abuse online in each of the last five years. [298920]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government set up the Child Protection and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) in 2006 to help protect children online. They have tackled both those who abuse children and those who are trading in images of such abuse. Since 2006 the Government have provided funding for the centre of:

	£ million
2006-07	5.360
2007-08	5.657
2008-09	6.270
2009-10	6.353

In addition, chief constables have their normal policing budget which they are able to use on the priorities for their forces. Any decision on funding or staffing for child protection activity is a matter for the chief constables for their area.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what further research he plans to undertake on the relationship between viewing images of child abuse online and child abuse. [299914]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It has not been possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Offensive Weapons: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded crimes involving knives there were in the Milton Keynes area in each of the last five years. [299531]

Mr. Hanson: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Parenting Orders

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many parenting orders have been issued in *(a)* Doncaster, *(b)* South Yorkshire and *(c)* England since their introduction; [298633]

(2) if he will issue guidance to local authorities and the police recommending that a parenting order should automatically be attached to an anti-social behaviour order or acceptable behaviour contract which is applied to a person under the age of 18 living at home. [298637]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Parenting orders were piloted between 30 September 1998 and 31 March 2000 and commenced in England and Wales in June 2000.

Data showing the breakdown by area for the period 30 September 1998 and 31 March 2000 are not available. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) has since April 2000 collected the number of parenting orders by youth offending team (YOT) area, as reported to it by youth offending teams including education-related orders where the YOT has been involved. Since September 2004, the Department for Children, Schools and Families has collected data on the number of parenting orders in England related to non-attendance of children at school and exclusion from school at local authority level.

The number of parenting orders relating to crime or antisocial behaviour and those related to education as reported to the YJB in Doncaster YOT area; South Yorkshire; England, and England and Wales, are shown in the following table.

Plans to legislate for mandatory parenting orders when 10 to 15-year-olds breach their ASBO are contained in the crime and policing Bill. The implementation of such legislation would require detailed guidance to be prepared in advance for all applicant authorities for parenting orders.

Parenting Orders by legal basis: Doncaster YOT, South Yorkshire, England and England and Wales

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total*
Doncaster									
Crime	5	0	1	2	0	0	0	3	11
Education	0	0	1	2	1	10	11	2	27
Other	1	0	0	0	—	—	—	—	1
Referral Order	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	1	1
ASBO	—	—	—	—	2	0	2	2	6
Sex Offences Prevention Order	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0
Child Safety Order	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0
Free Standing—YOT	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0
Free Standing—LEA	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0

Parenting Orders by legal basis: Doncaster YOT, South Yorkshire, England and England and Wales

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
									46
South Yorkshire									
Crime	11	8	13	20	9	8	10	11	90
Education	0	9	8	16	10	22	22	22	109
Other	11	0	0	0	—	—	—	—	11
Referral Order	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	1	1
ASBO	—	—	—	—	2	0	4	2	8
Sex Offences Prevention Order	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0
Child Safety Order	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0
Free Standing—YOT	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0
Free Standing—LEA	—	—	—	—	0	0	11	16	27
									246
England									
Crime	715	776	731	649	951	1036	994	1030	6882
Education	95	255	207	211	232	210	166	229	1605
Other	155	119	199	190					663
Referral Order	—	—	—	—	169	179	223	286	857
ASBO	—	—	—	—	35	32	63	44	174
Sex Offences Prevention Order	—	—	—	—	0	0	1	0	1
Child Safety Order	—	—	—	—	0	0	1	0	1
Free Standing—YOT	—	—	—	—	6	7	14	8	35
Free Standing—LEA	—	—	—	—	0	0	18	21	39
									10,257

Note:
Data for Education and Free Standing—LEA categories may not be complete, as YOTs are not always informed of these parenting orders

Passports

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to designate passports under the Identity Cards Act 2006. [298070]

Alan Johnson: The exact timetable for future legislation has yet to be decided, but it is intended that the existing provisions of the Identity Cards Act 2006 will be amended by further primary legislation so that, from 2012, when fingerprint biometric passports are introduced, every adult who decides to apply for a British Passport will have the choice of being issued with a fingerprint biometric passport, a fingerprint biometric identity card or both documents—all on a voluntary basis.

Police: Administration

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the levels of administrative burden upon police forces. [295108]

Mr. Hanson: Since the Policing Green Paper in 2008 the Government have taken significant steps to reduce administrative burdens. The new single top down target to increase public confidence has given frontline officers more scope to exercise their professional discretion—helping them to do the job the public expect of them, with less time taken up on administration.

The review undertaken by the permanent secretary to the Home Office of the data requirements placed on the police service by the Home Office is on track to deliver a 50 per cent. reduction by March 2010. It included scrapping Activity Based Costing, freeing up the equivalent of approximately 150 extra officers and staff. In addition we have scrapped the lengthy stop and account form and are supporting forces to introduce more proportionate crime recording processes.

Jan Berry's forthcoming report as the independent reducing bureaucracy advocate will make recommendations on the next steps for Government and police forces and authorities in reducing the administrative burden.

In the spirit of reducing bureaucracy, the Government have no plans to survey forces further.

Police: East Midlands

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were per head of population in each police force area in the East Midlands in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [299162]

Mr. Hanson: It has not been possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Police: Internet

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on the development of the website maps.police.uk; what the budget for the website is for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and how many staff are employed to maintain the website. [296362]

Mr. Hanson: The total cost of development was £230,700.

There is an annual cost of £50,000 per year for 2009-10 and 2010-11 which covers web-hosting, maintenance and minor development work.

There are no members of staff solely dedicated to maintain this system in either the National Policing Improvement Agency or police forces. The maintenance of this system is incorporated in day to day operations.

Police: Norfolk

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on policing in Norfolk in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [298960]

Mr. Hanson: It has not been possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in Norfolk constabulary in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available. [299021]

Mr. Hanson: It has not been possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Police: North Yorkshire

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police and *(b)* police community support officers there were in North Yorkshire in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009. [299786]

Mr. Hanson: It has not been possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Public Order Offences: Members

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any hon. Members have details about them recorded on the National Public Order Intelligence Unit database. [296765]

Mr. Hanson: The Police Service does not disclose details of entries on intelligence databases except where a formal Subject Access Request is made under the Data Protection Act.

Radicalism

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the level of risk to public safety posed by *(a)* violent extremism, *(b)* extremism perpetrated in the name of Islam, *(c)* extremism perpetrated in the name of neo-Nazi and fascist causes and *(d)* extremism claimed by others; and if he will make a statement. [293390]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 15 October 2009]:* As set out in CONTEST, our counter-terrorism strategy published in March this year, the most significant threat we currently face to national security is international terrorism from Al Qaeda or Al Qaeda inspired groups.

Prevent, our long term strategy to stop people becoming or supporting violent extremists is part of our response to this threat. More information on Prevent can be found at:

http://security.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-publications/publication-search/general/HO_Contest_strategy.pdf

Alongside this work, the Government will continue to take action against any groups or individuals who promote or incite violence. The Government will also continue to challenge views which fall short of supporting violence and are within the law, but which reject and undermine our shared values and jeopardise community cohesion.

Shoplifting: Arrests

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests and *(b)* subsequent convictions for offences of shoplifting there have been in each of the last five years. [300075]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Shoplifting: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders received a police caution for shoplifting in each of the Cambridgeshire Constabulary basic command units in each year since 1997. [299926]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Shotgun Passes

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many British visitor's *(a)* firearms and *(b)* shotgun passes were issued in (i) England and Wales and (ii) Scotland in each of the last 10 years; and how many prosecutions for breach of conditions of issue of each type of pass were brought in each of those years. [297966]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information relating to visitor permit applications granted for individuals and groups in England and Wales is published in an annual Home Office Statistical Bulletin, the latest of which can be found online at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0509.pdf

Relevant data for the period 1998 to 2005-06 (inclusive) and 2007-08 are reproduced in the following table. Due to the transition from in-force data collection systems to the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS), data for 2006-07 are not available centrally.

No prosecutions at magistrates courts in England and Wales for "Failing to comply with conditions under a visitor's permit" under section 17(10)(b) of the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1988 have been reported to the Ministry of Justice between 1998 and 2007. Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Information with regard to Scotland is a matter for the Scottish Government.

Visitors' permits: Applications granted for individuals and groups, firearms and shotguns, England and Wales, 1998 to 2007-08

		Number (rounded)
	On behalf of	*Group applications*
Firearms		
1998	1,380	170
1999	1,200	150
2000	1,410	150
2001	1,080	120
2002-03	1,520	160
2003-04	960	160
2004-05	930	210
2005-06	960	190
2006-07[1]	[2]—	[2]—
2007-08	1,950	40
Shotguns		
1998	3,560	570
1999	3,430	640
2000	2,860	630
2001	2,530	580
2002-03	2,860	640
2003-04	2,720	580
2004-05	3,000	670
2005-06	2,790	540
2006-07[1]	[2]—	[2]—
2007-08	6,470	230

[1] Figures for 2006-07 are not available due to the transition from in-force data collection systems to the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS).

[2] Denotes figures not available.

Source:

Firearm Certificates in England and Wales 2007-08 (HOSB 05/09, Table 9).

Telephone Services

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his Department's policy is on call charge rates for hon. Members for use of a telephone hotline on behalf of their constituents; and if he will make a statement. [292832]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office does not have a specific policy on call charges for hon. Members for use of and telephone helpline on behalf of constituents.

To minimise the cost of calls made to Home Office hotlines wherever possible, we align our telephony services to the guidance and rules set out by Ofcom.

We also work closely with the Central Office of Information (COI) which is the Government's centre of excellence for marketing and communications to ensure our telephone services are in line with industry standards and are aligned to the quality and service standards of other Government Departments.

Terrorism: Internet

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK-based websites have been closed down under the provisions of section 3 of the Terrorism Act 2006 because they contained extremist material inciting terrorism. [298067]

Alan Johnson: I will write to the hon. Member.

UK Border Agency

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of UK Border Agency staff have financial objectives as part of their performance management reviews; and if he will make a statement. [294417]

Alan Johnson: The Home Office has a competency framework that sets out the skills needed for different types of job. The core competency framework consists of five core competencies one of which is financial management. Performance against the competency framework, including financial management where relevant, is assessed in appraisal of annual performance, applications for posts and promotion where relevant. The setting of individual objectives in performance management reviews is a matter for individual line managers and it is not possible for this reason to state the percentage of staff with financial objectives except at disproportionate costs.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency projects do not have *(a)* a signed-off business case and *(b)* an end date; and what the total budget is of such projects. [294419]

Alan Johnson: UKBA has 12 areas of activity it treats as programmes and projects within its corporate portfolio that currently support the UKBA business plan, change programme and wider Home Office initiatives.

Out of the 12 programmes and projects, two do not yet have a signed-off business case. The two projects are in the process of developing their business cases and are due to go through financial and other approval processes in early 2010.

All 12 programmes and projects have a planned end date.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which 50 parliamentary constituencies the UK Border Agency received the highest number of enquiries regarding migration cases that are *(a)* legacy cases, *(b)* non-legacy cases and *(c)* out-of-country visa applications ranked from highest to lowest in each of the last four years. [299112]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many raids were conducted in each region by UK Border Agency officials in 2008. [299225]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 November 2009]:* It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff left *(a)* the UK Border Agency in 2008 and *(b)* its predecessors in each of the four preceeding years through (i) resignation, (ii) retirement, (iii) termination and (iv) redundancy. [299227]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 November 2009]:* It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff of the UK Border Agency moved jobs within the agency in 2008. [299228]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 November 2009]:* It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

UK Border Agency: Consultants

* **Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what projects have been carried out by consultants for the UK Border Agency in the last 12 months. [298071]

Alan Johnson: Consultants and contractors are employed on projects when required to complement and supplement civil servants. They provide skills and knowledge that are either highly specialist or not available within the Agency.

UK Border Agency has 12 areas of activity it trea[illegible] as programmes and projects within its corporate portfolio that currently support the agency business plan, change programme and wider Home Office initiatives. Of these all 12 have used consultants to support delivery as required.

In making use of consultancy firms the United Kingdom Border Agency uses approved public sector procurement options including framework contracts provided by Buying Solutions, an Executive agency of the Office of Government Commerce in the Treasury, or other Government Departments when appropriate.

Framework contracts are tailored to be subject matter specific allowing the United Kingdom Border Agency to source appropriately qualified and charged providers.

UK Border Agency: Contracts

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts over the value of £5 million have been let by the UK Border Agency; and for what programmes each such contract was let. [294410]

Alan Johnson: Current contracts over the value of £5 million let by the UK Border Agency are as follows. This does not include expired or terminated contracts or contracts that are in procurement.

Source	*Programme/Project/contract*
Border Force	Haulage, Storage and Disposal of Excise Goods (from HMRC)
	Maintenance of five Existing Cutters (from HMRC)
	Supply and Maintenance of Mobile Scanners (from HMRC)
	Aerial Surveillance_
	e-Borders
Criminality and Detention	Brook House Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) Operating Contract
	Harmondsworth IRC Rebuild
	Harmondsworth IRC Operating Contract
	Campsfield House IRC Operating Contract
	Colnbrook IRC Operating Contract
	Oakington Reception Centre Operating Contract
	Tinsley House IRC Operating Contract
	Dungavel House IRC Operating Contract
	Yarl's Wood IRC Operating Contract
	Ticketing Services for UKBA Removals
	Escorting - In Country, Overseas and Short Term Holding Facility (STHF)
	Port of Dover - STHF Contract
Immigration Group	Refugee Integration and Employment Services
	Fulfilment and Appointment Booking Services
	Assisted Voluntary Returns
	Contact Centre Services
	Payment Processing
	Case Resolution Department Administrative Function
	Target Contracts - Asylum Accommodation
	Gateway - Refugee Resettlement Programme
	Asylum - One Stop Services
	Transport Plus
	Cash Payment Contract
	Initial Accommodation - Associated Services
	Immigration Casework System Integrator Contract
International Group	Production of Visa Vignette Products
	Service Management of Biometrics Messaging System
	Visa Application Centres
RMG	Security Guards
	Various IT and Application Infrastructure Services
	Record Services Contract

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contracts for *(a)* services outsourced by the UK Border Agency and *(b)* and UK Border Agency IT systems valued at over £250,000 per year are due to (i) be re-let and (ii) end in the next four years. [294411]

Alan Johnson: The UK Border Agency has outsourced services across the organisation. The decision to re-let is primarily driven by the business need and priority, with the commercial strategy and procurement route determined subsequently.

The approach to re-letting evaluation is made towards the end of each contract in light of business need and available procurement options.

The UK Border Agency contracts for outsourced services which may be re-let are as follows:

Source	*Programme/project/contract*
Border Force	Haulage, Storage and Disposal of Excise Goods (from HMRC)
	Maintenance of five Existing Cutters (from HMRC)
	Supply and Maintenance of Mobile Scanners (from HMRC)
	Maintenance for Baggage X-Ray
	Maintenance of Legacy Mobile Freight Scanners
	Supply and Maintenance of Trace Detection Equipment

Source	*Programme/project/contract*
	Freight Searching Services
	Maintenance and Obsolescence Management Services of Passive Millimetric Wave Machine
	Relocation Services
Criminality and Detention	Harmondsworth IRC Operating Contract
	Campsfield House IRC Operating Contract
	Colnbrook IRC Operating Contract
	Oakington Reception Centre Operating Contract
	Dungavel House IRC Operating Contract
	Yarl's Wood IRC Operating Contract
	Ticketing Services for UKBA Removals
	Escorting—In Country, Overseas and Short Term Holding Facility (STHF)
	Port of Dover—STHF Contract
	Port of Harwich—STHF Contract
Immigration Group	Refugee Integration and Employment Services
	Fulfilment and Appointment Booking Services
	Facilitated Returns Scheme for Foreign National Prisoners
	Assisted Voluntary Returns
	Contact Centre Services
	Payment Processing
	Secure Documents
	Transportation of Presenting Officers
	Case Resolution Department Administrative Function
	Target Contracts—Asylum Accommodation
	Gateway—Refugee Resettlement Programme
	Asylum—One Stop Services
	Transport Plus
	Cash Payment Contract
	Initial Accommodation—Associated Services
	Immigration Case Work System Integrator Contract
International Group	Production of Visa Vignette Products
	Service Management of Biometrics Messaging System
	Visa Application Centres
RMG	Security Guards
	Provision of Arrest Team Equipment and Training
	Provision of Conflict Training
	Leadership and Management Development
	Various IT and Application Infrastructure Services
	Maintenance of Electronic Security Systems
	Record Services Contract
HR	Occupational Health Services

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what UK Border Agency services for *(a)* IT, *(b)* human resources, *(c)* communications, *(d)* building and *(e)* finance and payroll services are provided (i) in-house and (ii) outsourced. [294414]

Alan Johnson: The UK Border Agency's corporate services are provided through a range of outsourced and in-house arrangements. Details of these are set out in the following table:

	In-house	*Outsourced*
IT	The UK Border Agency commissions IT services through shared services arrangements and manages the development of specialised applications by external providers.	Most IT services are provided through contracts with private sector suppliers managed by Home Office shared services. E-Borders services are also outsourced but managed directly by the Border Agency. The agency also receives some services from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and FCO, again on the basis of outsourced services.
Human Resources	HR services are provided in-house via a combination of UKBA and Home Office HR services. Some recruitment campaigns are outsourced to third party suppliers under the supervision of HR.	Transactional HR services are provided through Home Office shared services. IT requirements are outsourced. HR transactional services are provided through the HM Prison Service Shared Services Centre and payroll services through the Home Office Pay and Pensions Service.
Communications	The UK Border Agency uses a mix of in-house and bought in communications support and keeps the mix under review to ensure value for money. The following are largely provided in-house: staff communications, press and media relations, planning, stakeholder information, web content and visits.	Elements of the following are contracted out where appropriate: design, events and marketing/customer information. The following services are mainly delivered externally: advertising, printing, web development and insight.
Estates services	The UK Border Agency commissions estates services through shared services arrangements.	Estates services, including buildings maintenance, are provided through Home Office shared services, on the basis of a number of outsourced construction and facilities management contracts. Some estates services are also provided by the FCO and HMRC estates functions, again on the basis of outsourced contracts.
Finance	In-house finance services ensure the purchase to pay process is adhered to, from the initial creation of the requisition, to the payment of the invoices by Shared Service Centre. Receipting of goods and services to ensure that payments are made within suppliers' payment terms and conditions and within the prompt payment framework. Provision of monthly financial management and workforce planning information and reports for internal UKBA and wider Home Office. In-house services procure goods and services using the Government Procurement Card and perform monthly reconciliation's of statements.	Transactional finance services are provided through Home Office shared services. IT requirements are outsourced to a private sector provider, and transactional services are provided through the HM Prison Service Shared Services Centre.

	In-house	*Outsourced*
Payroll services	The UK Border Agency commissions payroll services through shared services arrangements provided by the Home Office.	Payroll services are provided through the Home Office Pay and Pensions Service. IT requirements are outsourced.

UK Border Agency: Manpower

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff there were at each grade in the UK Border Agency on the latest date for which figures are available. [294418]

Alan Johnson: The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 has, since it came into force on 29 February 2008, allowed the UK Border Agency to issue civil penalties of up to £10,000 per worker to employers who are found to be liable for employing illegal migrant workers.

Internal management information shows that for the period 29 February 2008 to 19 October 2009, no civil penalties have been issued to public bodies. 3,164 penalties have been issued to employers and 1,301 remain unpaid.

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

UK Border Agency: Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many telephone calls the UK Border Agency helpline has received in the last 12 months. [299574]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what periods of time the UK Border Agency helpline has been out of order in the last 12 months; and what the estimate is of the number of calls that were not answered as a result. [299575]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Vetting: Young People

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young people under the age of 18 years have been the subject of a Criminal Records Bureau check in each year since 2002. [294625]

Meg Hillier: The total volume of applications made for Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks by people under the age of 18 since the Bureau's inception in 2002 is 730,164.

Warehouse Parties: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal raves have taken place in the Milton Keynes local authority area in each of the last five years; and how many *(a)* crimes and *(b)* accidents were reported in conjunction with such events. [299184]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Wriiten Questions: Government Responses

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to answer Question 295742, on stolen vehicles, tabled on 21 October 2009. [299076]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I replied to the hon. Lady on 10 November 2009, *Official Report,* column 340W.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to respond to Question 295744, on tracking devices, tabled on 21 October 2009 for answer on 26 October. [299077]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I replied to the hon. Lady on 10 November 2009, *Official Report,* column 334W.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to answer Question 295745, on car parking, tabled on 21 October 2009. [298984]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I replied to the hon. Lady on 10 November 2009, *Official Report,* column 335W.

Young Offenders: Alcoholic Drinks

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people under the age of 18 years have been arrested for alcohol-related acts of disorder or violence in each of the last five years. [299689]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Young Offenders: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of each category were committed by young people aged *(a)* under 16 and *(b)* between 16 and 18 years in the Milton Keynes local authority area in each of the last five years. [299185]

Mr. Hanson: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Young Offenders: Sexual Offences

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were subject to indefinite notification requirements for sexual offences committed when they were under the age of 18 years in each year since 2000. [294149]

Alan Johnson: The information requested can be proved only at disproportionate cost.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what involvement there has been of parents of children with disabilities or special educational needs in reviewing the criteria for school newbuilds under Building Schools for the Future. [299722]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will consider using independent disability experts to review and monitor current and future Building Schools for the Future new build proposals. [299723]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with Partnership for Schools on the effectiveness of his Department's guidance for adaptations for children with disabilities and special educational needs in implementation of the Building Schools for the Future programme. [299724]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with disability groups nationally on their input to school design and access issues under the Building Schools for the Future programme. [299726]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school new build proposals under the Building Schools for the Future programme have been subject to revision to take account of design and access issues for children with disabilities and special educational needs. [299727]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities have received no funding under the Building Schools for the Future programme; and if he will make a statement. [299037]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Child Protection Orders

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children who were the subject of legal proceedings were the subject of child protection orders on the latest date for which figures are available. [288316]

Dawn Primarolo: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what directives have been given to staff of the London areas of the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service on attending local authority planning meetings in respect of care proceedings. [297335]

Dawn Primarolo: In July 2009 the President of the Family Division, Sir Mark Potter, issued Interim Guidance to the family courts about the handling of cases, including care proceedings To reflect this, CAFCASS has issued revised Operating Priorities for the period covered by the Interim Guidance (October 2009 to March 2010) to all its staff. In London, guidance has been issued to staff in support of the President's Interim Guidance and the London Family Courts Guidance, issued in October 2009 by the London Designated Family Judge, Mr. Justice Altman. In line with previous practice, the guidance states that

> "Guardians are not expected to attend all Local Authority meetings".

A copy of the guidance has been placed in the House Libraries.

Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service: Finance

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has allocated to the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service in each of the last three years; and for what purposes. [297029]

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the budget of the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service was in each of the last three years. [297456]

Dawn Primarolo: CAFCASS's budget for 2007/08 was £107,133,000. On top of this, CAFCASS received funding for additional activities, namely £80,000 for ContactPoint and £1,500,000 for Family Contact Services.

CAFCASS funding was set for three years as part of the comprehensive spending review 2007 for 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11. Re-profiling of this budget has since taken place to reflect the high level of demand, particularly in public law cases. CAFCASS overall budget for the three year CSR period has not changed as a result of this re-profiling. In 2009/10 CAFCASS have received an additional £2.54 million to strengthen their capacity to offer support to children who are the subject of care proceedings. This includes £1.6 million for the London region where demand has been highest. In

2008/09 and 2009/10 CAFCASS received funding for additional activities as well, namely ContactPoint and Family Contact Services.

CAFCASS funding CSR 2007

	2008/09	*2009/10*	*2010/11*
CSR Allocation	114,855,000	124,094,000	132,822,000
Reprofiling	3,600,000	1,000,000	-4,600,000
Additional Allocation	—	2,540,000	—
Annual Budget Total	118,455,000	127,634,000	128,222,000
Contact Point	210,000	520,000	—
Family Contact Services	2,300,000	2,000,000	—

Children in Care

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in each of the last five years have been taken into alternative care as a result of an assessment of the level of their parents' income. [292525]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 185W.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the likely effect on expenditure of local authorities in England of any increase in the number of children removed from families for their own safety or welfare. [298661]

Dawn Primarolo: Local circumstances vary substantially and local authorities with their Children's Trust partners are best placed to judge how best to allocate resources to ensure all children receive the protection they need.

In May 2009, the Government announced £57.8 million new investment to support "The protection of children in England: action plan—The Government's response to Lord Laming", as part of a wider £130 million package to support social work reform. This investment will help increase the capacity of the system to respond to demands. In addition, expenditure on looked-after children increased by 44 per cent. in real terms between 2000-01 and 2007-08. During this period, the number of children looked after remained broadly stable.

The Government are monitoring the number of care order applications and other indicators carefully and working with local government partners to monitor the implications for local children's services.

Children in Care: Remand in Custody

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many former relevant children, as defined in the Government's guidance on Children (Leaving Care), there are in custody. [295833]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is responsible for provision for care leavers.

A 'former relevant child' is a young person aged 18+ (i.e. legally adult) who was either a looked-after child before reaching legal adulthood or a child who had left care after the age of 16 but before the age of 18, who would be entitled to continuing leaving care support from their responsible local authority.

The following link is to the Statistical First Release "Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2009":

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000878/index.shtml

Table G1 shows the accommodation outcomes of care leavers now aged 19 years old and who were looked after in their 17th year and provides information about those who were in custody. This table can be found in the first excel link labelled "(England Summary tables, included within PDF file)".

Children: Carers

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many households in North East Milton Keynes constituency a child under the age of 18 fulfils the role of a carer for a disabled parent. [299638]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Children: Day Care

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained nurseries have closed in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [298817]

Dawn Primarolo: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* children's centres and *(b)* Sure Start centres have closed in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [298818]

Dawn Primarolo: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of registered childminders were *(a)* male and *(b)* female in each local authority area in the South East in each year since 1997. [299526]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Children: Foster Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many kinship care foster placements broke down in each local authority in England in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [298773]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 9 November 2009]*: Information on the number of family or friend foster placements which ended, resulting in a change of placement during the year by local authority can be found in the table.

The reason for a change of placement is not collected centrally and so we cannot distinguish between planned placement moves and placement breakdowns.

Table 1: Number of family or friend foster placement changes, during the year, by local authority[1] year ending 31 March 2009 coverage: England

	Number of placement changes
England	1,900
North East	110
Darlington	10
Durham	25
Gateshead	5
Hartlepool	5
Middlesbrough	5
Newcastle Upon Tyne	5
North Tyneside	—
Northumberland	—
Redcar and Cleveland	10
South Tyneside	5
Stockton-On-Tees	10
Sunderland	20
North West	430
Blackburn with Darwen	15
Blackpool	10
Bolton	25
Bury	25
Cheshire	30
Cumbria	10
Halton	—
Knowsley	10
Lancashire	35
Liverpool	35
Manchester	60
Oldham	—
Rochdale	15
Salford	10
Sefton	20
St. Helens	—
Stockport	15
Tameside	15
Trafford	15
Warrington	15
Wigan	35
Wirral	30
Yorkshire and The Humber	220
Barnsley	5
Bradford	35
Calderdale	15
Doncaster	15
East Riding of Yorkshire	5
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	20
Kirklees	10
Leeds	50
North East Lincolnshire	5
North Lincolnshire	—
North Yorkshire	10
Rotherham	25
Sheffield	10
Wakefield	—
York	—
East Midlands	100
Derby	20
Derbyshire	—
Leicester	20
Leicestershire	10
Lincolnshire	10
Northamptonshire	15
Nottingham	15
Nottinghamshire	10
Rutland	0
West Midlands	220
Birmingham	70
Coventry	25
Dudley	15
Herefordshire	0
Sandwell	10
Shropshire	—
Solihull	5
Staffordshire	20
Stoke-On-Trent	15
Telford and Wrekin	—
Walsall	20
Warwickshire	10
Wolverhampton	10
Worcestershire	15
East of England	140
Bedfordshire	5
Cambridgeshire	—
Essex	50
Hertfordshire	35
Luton	15
Norfolk	10
Peterborough	—
Southend-on-Sea	—
Suffolk	10
Thurrock	—
London	290
Inner London	150
Camden	15
City Of London	0
Hackney	10
Hammersmith and Fulham	5
Haringey	10
Islington	10
Kensington and Chelsea	—
Lambeth	20
Lewisham	10
Newham	10
Southwark	15
Tower Hamlets	5
Wandsworth	15
Westminster	10
Outer London	150
Barking and Dagenham	—
Barnet	15
Bexley	—
Brent	30
Bromley	—
Croydon	10
Ealing	10
Enfield	10
Greenwich	10

Table 1: Number of family or friend foster placement changes, during the year, by local authority[1] year ending 31 March 2009 coverage: England

Number of placement changes

Table 1: Number of family or friend foster placement changes, during the year, by local authority[1] year ending 31 March 2009 coverage: England

	Number of placement changes
Harrow	—
Havering	10
Hillingdon	—
Hounslow	5
Kingston Upon Thames	—
Merton	5
Redbridge	—
Richmond Upon Thames	—
Sutton	—
Waltham Forest	5
South East	220
Bracknell Forest	5
Brighton and Hove	—
Buckinghamshire	—
East Sussex	15
Hampshire	70
Isle Of Wight	10
Kent	15
Medway Towns	5
Milton Keynes	—
Oxfordshire	25
Portsmouth	10
Reading	—
Slough	—
Southampton	10
Surrey	25
West Berkshire	x
West Sussex	—
Windsor and Maidenhead	—
Wokingham	—
South West	150
Bath and North East Somerset	—
Bournemouth	—
Bristol, City of	20
Cornwall	10
Devon	20
Dorset	10
Gloucestershire	25
Isles Of Scilly	x
North Somerset	10
Plymouth	10
Poole	—
Somerset	10
South Gloucestershire	5
Swindon	—
Torbay	—
Wiltshire	15

[1] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

Children: Housing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on whether funding allocated to his Department is to be allocated to the Department for Communities and Local Government to help implement the housing policies announced in the Draft Legislative Programme for 2009-10. [299486]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Children: Learning Disabilities

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children resident in (*a*) England, (*b*) Teesside and (*c*) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency have been diagnosed with a learning disability in each year since 1997. [296396]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Information about pupils' type of special educational need was first collected in the school census in 2004. Of the 12 types of need identified, four specifically mention learning difficulties and are listed in the following table which contains the number of resident pupils with learning difficulties.

Number of resident pupils[1] with learning difficulties

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
England						
Moderate Learning Difficulty	168,770	169,950	171,520	170,080	171,040	170,770
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty	7,560	7,980	8,250	8,600	8,980	9,130
Severe Learning Difficulty	31,110	30,890	30,200	29,080	28,910	28,650
Specific Learning Difficulty	82,530	82,710	77,560	76,400	76,670	78,130
Total	289,970	291,430	287,610	284,890	285,590	286,880
Teesside						
Moderate Learning Difficulty	3,230	3,120	2,960	2,880	2,770	2,580
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty	140	150	150	150	150	140
Severe Learning Difficulty	510	490	480	470	470	480
Specific Learning Difficulty	1,580	1,600	1,480	1,540	1,520	1,450
Total	5,470	5,350	5,080	5,050	4,910	4,640
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland						
Moderate Learning Difficulty	500	450	440	420	400	360
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty	20	20	30	30	30	20
Severe Learning Difficulty	80	70	70	60	80	80
Specific Learning Difficulty	340	340	350	330	320	310
Total	940	880	890	840	830	780

[1] Information on primary need is only collected for pupils at School Action Plus and those with a statement of SEN.

Source:
School Census

Children: Missing Persons

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress his Department is making in the implementation in the UK of the European telephone number for missing children; and if he will make a statement. [299870]

Dawn Primarolo: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Children: Protection

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the contribution of the Minister for Children of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 214-17WH, on safeguarding children, when he plans to engage in dialogue on those matters; and when the Minister for Children plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Totnes of 21 October 2009 on a proposed meeting with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Trafficking of Women and Children. [298320]

Dawn Primarolo: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 107W, on children: protection, on what ground each of the 34 appeals was upheld. [300081]

Dawn Primarolo: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Children: Special Educational Needs

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding was allocated to schools in the current academic year for children with special needs in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* the East of England in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08 and (iii) 2008-09. [299082]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Christmas

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in the last 12 months. [299271]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Coram

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the concurrent planning scheme developed by Coram; and if he will make a statement. [298626]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* Coram's concurrent planning scheme has been independently evaluated by Elizabeth Monck, Jill Reynolds and Valerie Wigfall. This evaluation was published, by the British Association for Adoption and Fostering, as 'The Role of Concurrent Planning: Making permanent placements for young children'. The Government recognise the value of concurrent planning for the group of children it has the potential to benefit.

Data: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* schools of collecting and providing data collected centrally in the last year for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [296515]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Day Care: Slough

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department holds on the number of companies in the Slough parliamentary constituency which provide childcare facilities. [297963]

Dawn Primarolo: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on the ownership of childcare provision in England. The survey does not have information at local authority level. The 2008 Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey found that, of all childcare providers (i.e. full day care, full day care in children's centres, sessional and out of school provision) in the South East, 2,700 were privately owned.

Departmental Air Travel

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many flights within Great Britain officials of his Department took in 2008-09; and at what cost to the public purse. [296553]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 2 November 2009]:* The number of flights undertaken within Great Britain by officials during April 2008 and March 2009 was 335 at a cost of £70,356.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many first-class flights were taken by each Minister in his Department in 2008-09; and what the *(a)* origin, *(b)* destination and *(c)* cost was of each such flight. [298758]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Annual Reports

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to Annex A of his Department's Annual Report 2009, pages 214-15, which programmes and allocations have been aggregated under the categories *(a)* Support for Youth and *(b)* Support for Children and Families. [297019]

Dawn Primarolo: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2009. [299557]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department's information assurance procedures have been subject to an independent audit. [299332]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in his Department and its predecessor were employed on the management of freedom of information requests submitted to his Department in each year since 2005; and how much was spent on the management of such requests in each such year. [299136]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Manpower

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many officials were employed by his Department in each month since July 2007. [297045]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Employee information (on a total headcount and full-time equivalent basis) for the Department is published regularly on the Office for National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department in 2008-09. [299290]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Postal Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of postal services for his Department and its agencies were provided by *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* other postal service providers (i) in 2007, (ii) in 2008, (iii) between 1 January 2009 and 1 July 2009 and (iv) after 1 July 2009. [298803]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007. Since 28 June 2007, all post has been delivered by Royal Mail either directly or via Prolog, the Department's publications storage and distribution provider. We are unable to provide similar information for agencies.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with which providers his Department had a contract to provide postal services in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* between 1 January 2009 and 1 July 2009 and *(d)* since 1 July 2009. [299434]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which Minister in his Department has been assigned responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money in his Department; whether his Department has established a public sector reform team to implement service reforms; and if he will make a statement. [289746]

Mr. Coaker: My hon. Friend the Member for Kingston upon Hull, North (Ms Diana R. Johnson), the Under-Secretary of State for schools has taken on responsibility for the Department's value for money (VfM) remit, which will include oversight of our CSR07 VfM programme and the additional operational efficiency programme (OEP) efficiencies agreed at Budget 2009.

Both of these programmes are managed by a value for money team who co-ordinate activity across the Department, throughout its NDPBs and within the sectors in which they operate.

Progress towards targets set for the CSR07 efficiency programme and the operational efficiency programme (OEP) will be stated in the 2009 autumn performance report in December 2009.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 10 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1937-38W, on schools: finance, which individual programmes and corresponding allocations were aggregated under the items listed in the answer as *(a)* literacy and numeracy, central driving and *(b)* curriculum. [292054]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Further to the information provided on 9 September 2009, a more detailed breakdown of the Literacy and Numeracy, Central Driving and Curriculum programmes is provided as follows.

Departmental report allocation

(a) Literacy and Numeracy, Central driving	*£000*
Central Development	10,000
National Strategies	278,553
Making Good Progress	316,060
Personalised learning	50,000

Departmental report allocation

(a) Literacy and Numeracy, Central driving	*£000*
Literacy & numeracy, central driving, total	654,613

Notes:
1. Central Development
This predominantly supports new policies for the White paper: "Your child, your schools, our future—building a 21st century school system". Smaller elements cover the School Standards Advisor's team and continuance of research programmes.
2. Making Good Progress
This is a programme of one to one tuition to assist children who are falling behind. It supports 300,000 pupils for English and another 300,000 for maths.
3. Personalised learning
This programme underpins the Assessment for Learning Strategy which aims to embed best practice in assessment for learning. It is supported by the effective use of Assessing Pupils' Progress materials, in every classroom.

(b) Curriculum	
Primary Curriculum Review	9,000
PSHE/Citizenship	2,914
Children & Young People's Culture	105,316
Curriculum Policy	1,500
Languages & Geography	55,000
Science Technology Engineering & Maths	53,116
Curriculum - Other	2,675
Healthy schools	2,720
Curriculum total	232,241

Notes:
1. Children and Young People's Culture
This funds a range of projects (including Sing Up, Find Your Talent and Music Partnership Projects) ensuring pupils have quality experiences in arts and culture.
2. Languages and Geography
This supports the implementation of the National Languages Strategy: to improve teaching and learning and on widening participation.
The Action Plan for Geography promotes this subject as one relevant to the 21st century, and supports teachers to enable pupils' success.
3. Science Technology Engineering and Maths
The science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) programme aims to improve attainment and engagement in science subjects. This programme also aims to provide skills suitable for the workplace and employers.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of the statistical datasets collected by his Department is published. [299673]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Departmental Travel

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors spent on *(a)* car hire, *(b)* train travel, *(c)* hotels and *(d)* restaurant meals for (i) Ministers and (ii) staff in his Department in each of the last five years. [289976]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The data requested were for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). DCSF was established under the machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007, therefore the response covers its predecessor the Department for Education and Skills (DFES).

Spend for Rail Travel and Hotels is inclusive for both Ministers and Staff and is shown in the following table for each of the last five years. Car Hire costs for Ministers and Staff are shown separately.

The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) supply car hire for Ministers they are only able to supply data for the latest financial year 2008/2009. Data for earlier years is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Restaurant meals for Ministers and Staff within the DCSF cannot easily be extracted. Accounting records are not readily available and the information required to obtain data at this level of detail for a five year period would incur disproportionate costs.

Expenditure, however, has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of 'Managing Public Money' and the Treasury handbook on 'Regularity and Propriety'.

Financial years	*Car hire*	*Train travel*	*Hotels*	*Ministerial car hire*
2005	135,663	7,600,205	1,161,915	[1]—
2006	118,340	4,882,187	1,039,714	[1]—
2007	74,692	4,860,154	1,006,349	[1]—
2008	96,498	5,115,201	1,191,780	[1]—
2009	193,122	5,620,264	1,510,651	360,900

[1] = Not known.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department and its predecessors travelled by (i) car, (ii) rail and (iii) air on Government business in each year since 1997. [298545]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will review the terms of the education maintenance allowance to take into account the circumstances of households with triplets in 14 to 19 education. [298904]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* The number of children in a household is not taken into account during the income assessment for the Education Maintenance Allowance and we do not currently have plans to change this policy.

Other mechanisms exist to help with the costs of supporting young people aged 16 to 19 in learning. Child Benefit provides support for parents regardless of income, and Tax Credits are designed to tailor support to current circumstances and to be responsive to changing needs. Child Tax Credits also offer increased support for families with more children.

In addition to the support provided to families, discretionary learner support funds are made available via the Learning and Skills Council to colleges and local authorities. This funding is provided to enable schools and colleges, using their discretion, to help individual learners who may otherwise experience financial hardship or barriers to continuing in learning.

Education: Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many hours of education *(a)* juvenile and *(b)* young female offenders received on average per week in the most recent period for which figures are available. [295914]

Mr. Coaker: Figures collected by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the Youth Justice Board (YJB) for September 2008 to August 2009 indicate that in Prison Service YOIs, young people in juvenile YOI accommodation received an average of 27.5 hours per person per week of education, training and personal development. The data also indicate that young female offenders in juvenile Prison Service YOIs received an average of 30.1 hours of education, training and personal development activity per person per week during the same period. These figures encompass a range of education and constructive activities. From October NOMS have implemented new data collection systems which, along with data returns from the LSC will allow greater accuracy and detail in reporting on education, training and constructive activities in the future.

The YJB report that in private YOIs, young people received an average of 33.9 hours of education, training and personal development activity per week during August 2008 to September 2009. Female offenders are not currently held in private YOIs.

In Secure Children's Homes (SCHs) and Secure Training Centres (STCs) the YJB report against the number of young people who received a minimum of 30 hours of provision per week. Data indicate that between September 2008 and August 2009, 91.3 per cent. of young people in SCHs received a minimum of 30 hours of provision and in STCs this was 99 per cent. of young people. The YJB do not collect the information broken down by gender in STCs and SCHs.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what targets his Department has set for the educational *(a)* provision and *(b)* performance of young offender institutions; and what progress has been made towards meetings these targets. [295933]

Mr. Coaker: The Youth Justice Board (YJB) commissions the National Offender Management Service to deliver 25 hours of education, training and personal development to each young person per week in Prison Service YOIs. This includes education and training delivered by Learning and Skills Council providers, as well as training and personal development activities provided or commissioned by the Prison Service.

Figures for September 2008 to August 2009 indicate that in Prison Service YOIs, young people in juvenile YOI accommodation received an average of 27.5 hours per person per week of education, training and personal development. These figures encompass a range of education and constructive activities. From October NOMS have implemented new data collection systems which, along with data returns from the LSC, will allow greater accuracy and detail in reporting on education, training and constructive activities in the future.

For young people in private YOIs, YJB data shows that young people received an average of 33.9 hours of education, training and personal development activity per week during August 2008 to September 2009.

For young people in Secure Children's Homes (SCHs) and Secure Training Centres (STCs) the YJB require that 90 per cent. of young people receive a minimum of 30 hours of education, training and personal development activity per week. The YJB figures available indicate that between September 2008 and August 2009, 91.3 per cent. of young people in SCHs received a minimum of 30 hours of provision and in STCs this was 99 per cent. of young people.

Educational Visits: Low Incomes

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assistance his Department provides to the children of low-income families to enable them to participate in *(a)* school trips and *(b)* other extra-curricular activities. [299802]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: As part of the over £1 billion funding the Government are making available to support extended services in 2008-09 to 2010-11, over £200 million is available specifically to help schools provide and commission a range of activities for children and young people. The Children's Plan contained the commitment that:

> "This funding will help subsidise access to these opportunities by disadvantaged children, young people and children in care, who through their economic circumstances would otherwise be unable to participate. The funding will give schools the confidence to focus on providing what would most benefit children and young people, not just limited to what they can afford to pay for."

We are running a pathfinder with over 400 schools in 18 LAs. This started in September 2008 and has been successful in helping schools identify children who are unable to participate in activities, including trips, because of cost.

Faith Schools: Curriculum

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether faith schools will be able to choose study materials to enable them to teach the new personal, social, health and economic education within the tenets of their faith. [299532]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Faith Schools: Islam

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what all-Muslim girls boarding schools there are in England; and how many pupils each has; [297871]

(2) how many *(a)* boys and *(b)* mixed sex Muslim boarding schools there are in England; and how many pupils each has. [297872]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Family Courts: Guardians

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 945W, on family courts: guardians, how many cases the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service has allocated to self-employed guardians in each area in each of the last six months. [299838]

Dawn Primarolo: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Former Ministers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children Schools and Families how much has been paid by his Department and its predecessors to former Ministers as compensation for loss of office in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [287818]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Severance pay is payable, to former Ministers from this Department, in accordance with section 4 of the Ministerial and other Pensions and Salaries Act 1991.

Free School Meals: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost was of free school meals in *(a)* all schools and *(b)* school sixth forms in the last year for which figures are available. [299042]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Further Education

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people have taken a 14 to 19 diploma course in each subject in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* local authority in each year since the introduction of those diplomas. [298647]

Mr. Iain Wright: The 14 to 19 Diploma was introduced in the academic year 2008/09. Data for 2008/09 were published via the DCSF website on 11 November 2009 at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STA/t000888/index.shtml

These data will include participation by local authority but not by parliamentary constituency. I will therefore write to the hon. Member to provide the parliamentary constituency data.

GCE A-Level

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in *(a)* maintained schools, *(b)* independent schools and *(c)* comprehensive schools achieved three or more A grades at A-Level in 2009. [298234]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

GCE A-Level: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils eligible for free school meals achieved three or more A grades at A-Level in 2009. [298235]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information will be available after the publication of the "Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2008/09" Statistical First Releases. The Key Stage 5 release is planned for February 2010.

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of pupils did not gain one or more GCSEs excluding equivalents at grade *(a)* C, *(b)* D, *(c)* E and *(d)* G or above in 2009; [295271]

(2) how many and what percentage of students got five or more A* grades at GCSE in *(a)* independent and *(b)* comprehensive schools in (i) 2003, (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2007; [296514]

(3) how many pupils in *(a)* comprehensive schools and *(b)* all maintained schools did not obtain at least one GCSE at grade C or better, excluding equivalents, in 2009; [298232]

(4) how many pupils in comprehensive schools achieved seven or more GCSEs including English language, English literature, mathematics, history, physics, biology and chemistry in 2009. [298236]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in receipt of free school meals achieved seven GCSEs, including physics, biology, chemistry, mathematics, English, English literature and history in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2003, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [299011]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

GCSE: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils eligible for free school meals were not entered for a history GCSE in 2009; [298228]

(2) how many pupils eligible for free school meals were not entered for an English literature GCSE in 2009; [298229]

(3) how many pupils eligible for free school meals were not entered for an English GCSE in 2009; [298230]

(4) how many pupils eligible for free school meals were not entered for a mathematics GCSE in 2009; [298231]

(5) how many pupils eligible for free school meals did not obtain at least one GCSE at grade C or better, excluding equivalents, in 2009. [298233]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information will be available after the publication of the 'Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2008/09' Statistical First Releases. The Key Stage 4 release is planned for 15 December.

GCSE: Science

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of comprehensive schools did not enter any students for a physics, chemistry or biology GCSE in the last year for which figures are available. [297043]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Gifted Children: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in North East Milton Keynes constituency have participated in gifted and talented programmes in each year since 2000. [299637]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Green Job Placements

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many green job placements his Department expects will have been created by *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2011, *(c)* 2012, *(d)* 2013, *(e)* 2014 and *(f)* 2015. [298950]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Mr. Davies) on 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 119W. The Department is currently drawing up plans to deliver green work placements. A full announcement on plans to implement the programme will be made in the coming months.

Guardianships: Self-Employed

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service has for self-employed guardians in the period to March 2010. [297333]

Dawn Primarolo: Since its creation in 2001, CAFCASS has made extensive use of the services of self-employed contractors (SECs) to undertake the role of Children's Guardian in section 31 (Children Act 1989) care proceedings. CAFCASS plans to continue to commission work from SECs to help meet demand for the services of Children's Guardians provided that competent SECs are available and for whose work budgetary provision is available.

Home Education: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding he has allocated to local authorities to support home educators following the recommendations of the Badman review of elective home education in England. [298196]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We intend to ensure that our funding arrangements for local authorities support the proposals arising from the recommendations of the Badman "Review of Elective Home Education in England".

Implementation of the recommendations relating to the registration and monitoring of home educated children will be subject to legislation and the results of our public consultation. We estimate, subject to discussion with the Local Government Association, that the overall additional costs for these elements will be £21.65 million in the first year (2011/12) with additional ongoing annual costs of £9.78 million. This funding would be made available to local authorities under the New Burdens arrangements.

So far as local authority support for the education of home educated pupils is concerned, we plan to strengthen the school census guidance for the January 2010 return to ensure that all local authorities are aware that they can already include in the Alternative Provision Return for Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) home educated pupils whom they support financially and who have a statement, or have significant special educational needs that have not been formally recognised through a statement; and pupils whom they fund to attend college for post-14 qualifications including GCSEs and Diplomas. These pupils will then count as a unit for DSG purposes.

We will make further changes to the schools census from January 2011 to allow local authorities to include in their Alternative Provision return home educated pupils accessing the additional services set out in the recommendations, including funding them to take their GCSEs if they opt to enter as private candidates rather than through attending college courses. We currently expect to count these pupils as 0.1 of a unit for DSG purposes but we will reflect further on this figure in the light of consultation and experience.

The cost of these measures relating to DSG will depend on the numbers of home educated children and the services they may seek.

Hotels: Expenditure

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on hotel bills in 2008-09. [299148]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Integrated Children's System

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will amend the Integrated Children's System to enable a pre-birth plan to be changed after birth. [299648]

Dawn Primarolo: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Joint Advisory Committee for Qualifications Approval: Finance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the budget of the Joint Advisory Committee for Qualifications Approval is in 2009-10. [299528]

Mr. Iain Wright: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Marketing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department *(a)* spent on advertising in 2006-07 and *(b)* had so spent in 2009-10 on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [299847]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Mental Health Schools Programme: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools in the Milton Keynes area are operating the Target Mental Health Schools programme; and whether there are plans to extend the programme to other schools in the area. [299186]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Parents: Unemployment

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have been living in a household with neither parent in employment in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 2006. [295093]

Helen Goodman: I have been asked to reply.

Due to a technical issue with the necessary dataset, it has not been possible to provide a response to my hon. Friend's question as speedily as I would have wished. I will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested as soon as possible.

Physical Education: East of England

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department and its predecessors have allocated for the encouragement of physical exercise in schools in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* the East of England in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [300114]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Primary Education

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children attended more than three primary schools in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [298736]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Primary Education: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* Cambridgeshire have participated in the Primary Capital Programme in 2009. [300112]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Primary Education: Class Sizes

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils of primary school age in maintained schools are in classes of *(a)* fewer than 20, *(b)* between 20 and 24, *(c)* between 25 and 28, *(d)* 29 or 30, *(e)* between 31 and 35, *(f)* between 36 and 40 and *(g)* more than 40 pupils; and if he will make a statement. [295240]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Primary Education: Free School Meals

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of primary school children received free school meals in North Yorkshire in 2008-09. [299770]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Primary Education: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received on proposed primary school closures in West Lancashire. [299107]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were permanently excluded for each reason for exclusion from maintained primary schools, excluding special schools in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06. [297972]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Pupil Referral Units

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupil referral units in each local authority area have closed in each year since 2004 having had *(a)* no inspections and *(b)* one inspection at which they were judged (i) unsatisfactory, (ii) satisfactory, (iii) good and (iv) outstanding. [298737]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 10 November 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

There were 43 pupil referral units which closed between 1 January 2005 and 3 April 2009, the latest date for which published inspection data are available, and which were not inspected by Ofsted. Table A shows the local authority of each of those 43 pupil referral units, and the year in which they closed.

A further 32 pupil referral units closed between 1 January 2005 and 3 April 2009, having been inspected once by Ofsted.

Two of these were inspected prior to January 2000, when an overall effectiveness judgement was not made. These were both located in West Berkshire Local Authority.

A further eight of these were inspected under the school inspection frameworks used between January 2000 and August 2005, commonly known as Section 10. Under these frameworks, the school's overall effectiveness judgement was made using a seven point scale: excellent, very good, good, satisfactory, unsatisfactory, poor and very poor. Table B summarises the local authority, year of closure and inspection outcome of those pupil referral units inspected under Section 10. All eight were either judged satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

The remaining twenty-two pupil referral units which closed between 1 January 2005 and 3 April 2009 were inspected after September 2005 under the school inspection framework commonly known as Section 5. Under this framework, the overall effectiveness judgement was made using a four point scale: outstanding, good, satisfactory and inadequate.

Table C summarises the local authority, year of closure and inspection outcome of those inspected under Section 5.

It is not possible to operate a simple read-across approach from 2000 to the present using these different systems, therefore Tables B and C cannot be directly compared.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and placed in the library of both Houses.

Table A: Number of pupil referral units in each local authority which closed since 2004 and had never been inspected by Ofsted

Local authority	Number of pupil referral units which closed in					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	[1]2009	Total
Bolton	4	3	0	0	0	7
Bristol, City of	1	0	0	0	0	1
Coventry	0	0	0	1	0	1
Enfield	1	0	0	0	0	1
Havering	0	2	0	0	0	2
Hillingdon	0	0	0	0	1	1
Hounslow	2	0	0	0	0	2
Lambeth	1	0	0	0	0	1
Lancashire	0	0	1	0	0	1
Leicester	0	1	0	0	0	1
Leicestershire	2	0	0	0	0	2
Lewisham	1	0	0	0	0	1
Manchester	0	1	0	0	0	1
Medway	1	0	0	0	0	1
Northamptonshire	0	1	0	0	0	1
Reading	5	0	0	0	0	5
Rotherham	0	0	0	1	0	1
Salford	0	1	0	0	0	1
Somerset	0	2	1	0	0	3
Southwark	0	0	0	1	0	1
Telford and Wrekin	0	1	0	0	0	1
Thurrock	0	1	0	0	0	1
Trafford	1	0	0	0	0	1
Waltham Forest	0	0	0	0	1	1
West Berkshire	2	1	0	0	0	3
Wokingham	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	22	14	2	3	2	43

[1] 2009 includes those pupil referral units which closed prior to 3 April 2009 only.

Table B: Number of pupil referral units in each local authority which closed since 2004 and were last inspected under Section 10 and the outcome of that inspection

Local authority	Number of pupil referral units which closed in year and the overall effectiveness judgment				
	2005	2006		2008	
	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Barnsley	0	0	1	0	0
Bolton	0	1	0	0	0
Leeds	0	0	0	1	0
North Tyneside	0	0	1	0	0
Nottinghamshire	1	0	0	0	0
Salford	0	0	0	0	1
Stockton-on-Tees	0	0	0	0	1
Telford and Wrekin	1	0	0	0	0

Table B: Number of pupil referral units in each local authority which closed since 2004 and were last inspected under Section 10 and the outcome of that inspection

Local authority	*Number of pupil referral units which closed in year and the overall effectiveness judgment*				
	2005	*2006*		*2008*	
	Satisfactory	*Satisfactory*	*Unsatisfactory*	*Satisfactory*	*Unsatisfactory*
Total	2	1	2	1	2

Note:
Satisfactory and unsatisfactory were the only overall effectiveness judgments received by the pupil referral units included in this analysis. In addition, none closed in 2007, having received their last inspection under Section 10.

Table C: Number of pupil referral units in each local authority which closed since 2004 and were last inspected under Section 5 and the outcome of that inspection

Local authority	*Number of pupil referral units which closed in year and the overall effectiveness judgment*									
	2006		*2007*				*2008*			*2009*
	Good	*Inadequate*	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*	*Satisfactory*
Camden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cornwall	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Islington	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Lambeth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Lancashire	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leicester	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lewisham	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liverpool	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Milton Keynes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
North East* Lincolnshire	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Portsmouth	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rotherham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0
Southwark	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Stoke-on-Trent	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wigan	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Total	1	4	1	1	2	4	2	3	3	1

Note:
No pupil referral units included in this analysis closed in 2005.

Pupils: Absenteeism

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in each Bassetlaw secondary school had an unauthorised absence in the latest period for which figures are available. [299304]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Pupils: Abuse

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidelines his Department provides for teachers who suspect abuse or maltreatment of a pupil. [299840]

Dawn Primarolo: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Pupils: Costs

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the cost to parents of having a child at state school. [299803]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: In February 2009, we published the Cost of Schooling Survey 2007. This survey was commissioned to provide robust and up-to-date evidence on the costs to parents associated with sending their children to maintained schools.

The survey found that the total amount spent by parents in 2007 was, on average, £683.79 for a child at primary school and £1,195.47 for a child at secondary school. These figures include the amount spent on school uniform, PE kit, school trips, class materials, stationery items, swimming lessons, school fund contributions, school lunches, travel, school photographs, charity contributions and other activities.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average per student funding was in comprehensive secondary schools of *(a)* fewer than 100, *(b)* 100 to 199, *(c)* 200 to 299, *(d)* 300 to 399, *(e)* 400 to 499, *(f)* 500 to 599, *(g)* 600 to 700 and *(h)* over 700 students in (i) rural and (ii) non-rural areas in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [296947]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Qualifications and Curriculum Development Authority

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost has been of relocation of the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Authority from London to Coventry; how much was spent on *(a)* consultants for advice in relation to the move and *(b)* on physically moving; how many (i) retention payments, (ii) relocation payments and (iii) redundancy payments were provided to staff at each grade; how many staff received each type of payment; whether retention payments were single payments; what costs were met through relocation payments; and if he will make a statement. [286984]

Mr. Iain Wright: In the final report from his Independent Review of Public Sector Relocation in March 2004, Sir Michael Lyons recommended that 20,000 civil service jobs should move from London, to contribute to the reform of public services and to improve regional growth and national competitiveness. Following the Government's response in July 2004, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) undertook to relocate 400 posts to Coventry by March 2010, as part of the Department's response to the Lyons agenda. The organisation remains on course to achieve this goal. Interim Ofqual, which is currently part of QCA, is now fully based in Coventry.

For the period 1 April 2007 to 30 June 2009, total expenditure on relocation was £24.5 million. Of this, some £3 million was spent on consultants to provide specialist advice and skills not held within the organisation. The costs incurred over the short term will be offset by longer term savings. In particular, the rent payable for the organisation's office space will reduce from £6 million per annum in London to £1.4 million per annum in Coventry, and QCDA is using the opportunity of the relocation to restructure.

Staff cost savings of approximately £400,000 per annum have already been generated, and this is expected to grow as more staff are recruited in the West Midlands. QCDA's annual administrative costs will be a forecas[illegible] per cent. lower in real terms after the relocation is completed.

Expenditure on moving, including retention, relocation and redundancy payments provided to staff, and numbers of staff in receipt of payments is shown in the following table.

£

	2008-09			2009-10 (up to 30 September 2009)		
Staff Grade	*Retention*[1]	*Relocation*	*Redundancy*	*Retention*[1]	*Relocation*	*Redundancy*
B	—	4,585	6,516	17,499	109	26,461
C	27,209	6,946	257,798	58,622	11,505	167,208
D	50,991	91,232	318,961	90,382	71,801	200,292
E	23,587	55,593	351,107	177,082	47,386	527,297
F	—	—	160,647	82,158	11,641	120,982
Total	101,787	158356	1,095,208	425,743	142,442	1,042,240
Number of staff	30	28	29	93	39	38

[1] Retention payments are all single payments

Source:

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (September 2009)

Costs met through relocation cover reimbursement of staff claims for physical moves to the Midlands, including for example stamp duty on the purchase of a new house or additional commuting costs to Coventry.

School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what targets he has set for the uptake of school meals in primary and secondary schools; what progress has been made in reaching such targets; and if he will make a statement. [279321]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: School lunch take-up is one of the indicators of the Child Health PSA and is one of the indicators in the National Indicator Set. Increasing school lunch take-up is also the key priority for the School Food Trust (SFT), as set out by the Secretary of State in his remit letter for the 2009-10 financial year. The remit letter is published on the School Food Trust website

www.scho[illegible]oodtrust.org.uk.

The Department originally set a very stretching target to increase school lunch take up by 10 percentage points (pp) by autumn 2009 with an interim target of 4 pp by March 2008. In the light of the 2008 survey results, the Secretary of State has set the School Food Trust, in the 2009-10 remit letter, a trajectory consistent with achieving an increase in take up in primary schools of 1.7 pp between April 2009 and March 2010, and 2 pp between April 2010 and March 2011; and in secondary schools, 1.0 pp between April 2009 and March 2010, and 2.0 pp between April 2010 and March 2011.

The 2007-08 annual survey of school lunch take-up showed an increase in primary schools of 1.7 pp from 41.3 per cent. in 2006-07 to 43 per cent. in 2007-08. These figures illustrate that the number of primary school children eating school meals rose by 62,712 from 2006-07 to 2007-08. In secondary schools the previous decline levelled out to 0.1 pp. The results of the SFT's 2008-09 annual survey of school lunch take up were announced at the Local Authority Caterers' Association annual conference on 9 July 2009. These figures showed that, in the subsets of local authorities for which comparisons could be made, take-up in primary schools rose by 0.1 per cent., and in secondary schools rose by 0.5 per cent.

Schools

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were being educated in schools of more than *(a)* 400, *(b)* 500, *(c)* 600 and *(d)* 700 pupils in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2003. [298341]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Schools: Counselling

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will bring forward proposals for a national programme for schools counselling in England. [298371]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 9 November 2009]:* Many schools will already have school counselling services which they find valuable, and as I set out in my answer of 2 November 2009, access to counselling services has been provided locally through a number of DCSF initiatives developed in recent years, including through the Targeted Mental Health in Schools programme and local Behaviour and Education Support Teams.

In addition, we have introduced a range of other national programmes which also help children and young people develop social and emotional skills, improve self-esteem and self-control and build resilience, take-up of which is widespread. Of these, the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning programme is currently running in 89.5 per cent. of primary schools and 64 per cent. of secondary schools, as at 28 October 2009, 99.2 per cent. of schools were participating in the Healthy Schools Programme, with 81.3 per cent. having achieved Healthy Schools Status and subject to the passage of the Children, Schools and Families Bill, Personal, Social, Health and Economic education will be a statutory part of the curriculum from September 2011.

In addition, the "Your Child, Your Schools, Our Future" White Paper has said that through the new Personal Tutor role, every young person in secondary school will get the help they need to progress in learning and wider support in making choices through difficult times.

We have no plans for a national programme for counselling in schools in England. Ultimately, it is for a school's governors to make decisions about the use of its delegated budget to meet the school's priorities, which may include purchasing services of this kind.

Schools: Inspections

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons special schools classified as outstanding by Ofsted are subject to inspection every three years; and if he will make a statement. [298774]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 10 November 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Ofsted began inspecting under its new framework for maintained schools in September 2009. Under this framework, Ofsted is now varying the frequency of the inspection of mainstream schools that do not cause concern or require significant improvement. Schools judged to be good or outstanding at their last inspection will be inspected once within a five year period, provided that an annual risk assessment does not indicate that there has been a drop in their performance, or identify other factors that suggest an inspection would be appropriate.

The annual risk assessment and inspection selection process is based on nationally standardised, validated data for attainment and progress, which are not available for special schools. This means that Ofsted cannot apply these procedures for special schools and pupil referral units (PRUs) in the same way as for mainstream schools and, given the higher risk entailed, Ofsted will be continuing to inspect all special schools and PRUs in the third year after their previous inspection. This will help to ensure that Ofsted's inspection arrangements remain rigorous in holding to account the provision for some of the most potentially vulnerable young people.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many national challenge schools there are in each local education authority; what proportion of all schools that figure represents; and for how long each such local education authority has participated in that scheme. [298956]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which schools inspected since September 2009 were rated as inadequate; and if he will make a statement; [299038]

(2) which schools inspected in 2009 had their procedures for safeguarding rated as inadequate; and if he will make a statement. [299039]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Schools: Uniforms

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assistance his Department provides to low-income families for the purchase of school uniforms. [299801]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Our guidance to schools is clear that governing bodies must give high priority to cost considerations when they set their school uniform policy, and to ensure that these costs are kept to a minimum by having a uniform that is widely available. It also states that the school uniform chosen should be affordable and not act as a barrier to parents when choosing a school.

Local authorities have discretionary powers to provide school clothing grants or to help with the cost of school clothing in cases of financial hardship. Local authorities that choose to offer such grants set their own criteria for eligibility as they are best placed to determine the level of need in their area.

Secondary Education: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families who is responsible for the implementation in Gloucestershire of the recommendations made in the report of the Badman review of secondary education. [299855]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Sixth Form Colleges

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether a college not established as a sixth form college under Schedule 8 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill is prevented from using the title of sixth form college; and if he will make a statement. [297035]

Mr. Iain Wright: Colleges choosing not to designate as a sixth form college under Schedule 8 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill would not be required to change the title of the college.

Colleges including those colleges that are currently self-designated as sixth form colleges that decide not to become sixth form college corporations, will become FE (Further Education) college corporations.

There is currently no legal distinction between the different types of colleges. However the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill will give Sixth Form Colleges, for the first time, the opportunity to have a new distinct legal status. Colleges designating by order of the Secretary of State will become sixth form corporations in line with the provisions of Schedule 8 of the Bill.

Changes to the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 will allow for:

> the initial designation of existing bodies corporate as sixth form college corporations (section 33A of Schedule 8);
>
> subsequent designation of existing bodies corporate as sixth form college corporations (section 33B of Schedule 8),
>
> and the establishment of new bodies corporate as sixth form college corporations (section 33C of Schedule 8).

Social Services: Haringey

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he has taken in response to the Ofsted July Joint Area Review of Haringey Council's Children's Services; and if he will make a statement. [293063]

Dawn Primarolo: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what conditions have been imposed by his Department on spending of the funding provided in 2009-10 to the London Borough of Haringey for its children's services; and if he will make a statement. [293064]

Dawn Primarolo: Additional funding provided by the Department for Children, Schools and Families in 2009-10 to the London borough of Haringey is conditional on the funding being used to support the delivery of the joint area review action plan including the costs associated with securing the additional leadership capacity required to deliver the plan.

www.haringey.gov.uk/safeguardingactionplansubmitted.htm

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on involving *(a)* parents, *(b)* children and *(c)* disability groups in design criteria for schools which will admit children with disabilities and special educational needs; and if he will make a statement. [299725]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools for children with emotional, behavioural and social difficulties there are in *(a)* England, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Castle Point. [299919]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Special Educational Needs: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will commission an inspection of the school for children with emotional, behavioural and social difficulties located on Canvey Island; and if he will make a statement. [299577]

Mr. Coaker: The school on Canvey Island is a newly registered independent school. The independent school registration arrangements require Ofsted to conduct a full monitoring inspection within the first 12 months of an independent school admitting pupils. Therefore the Department will ask Ofsted to inspect the school for pupils with emotional, behavioural and social difficulties on Canvey Island at some point between now and 20 August 2010, the anniversary of the date at which it opened.

DCSF may also commission emergency monitoring visits at any registered independent school. Where circumstances warrant an unannounced visit no notice is given to schools, neither are the visits publicised in any way beforehand.

Special Educational Needs: Young Offenders

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the proportion of young offenders who have special educational needs; and what provision is available to such young offenders. [295935]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many people are enrolled on a diploma course in each subject; [298813]

(2) what proportion of pupils enrolled on a diploma course were eligible for free school meals in the latest period for which information is available. [298814]

Mr. Iain Wright: The 14 to 19 Diploma was introduced in the academic year 2008/09. Data for 2008/09 Diploma participation were published via the DCSF website on 11 November 2009 at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STA/t000888/index.shtml

These data will include participation by eligibility for free school meals.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools are not part of a consortium which offers diploma courses; and if he will make a statement. [298815]

Mr. Iain Wright: The latest information provided by consortia shows that only 349 secondary schools (just over 12 per cent. of the total number in England), are not members of consortia approved to deliver Diplomas from September 2009.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many independent schools are part of a consortium to offer diploma courses; and if he will make a statement. [298816]

Mr. Iain Wright: The latest information provided by consortia is that six independent schools are members of consortia approved to offer diplomas from September 2009.

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people are enrolled on a diploma course in each subject in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* South Yorkshire. [298957]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Specialist Schools: Lincolnshire

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what specialist schools have been established in north east Lincolnshire since 1997. [299629]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Sure Start Programme

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much his Department has spent on the in Chorley constituency since the introduction of the programme; [299113]

(2) what his most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of the Sure Start programme; and if he will make a statement. [299145]

Dawn Primarolo: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Sure Start Programme: Children's Centres

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* Sure Start centres and *(b)* children's centres have been opened in north east Lincolnshire since 1997; and what funding his Department has provided for such centres to date. [299628]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Sure Start Programme: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to extend the Sure Start programme in *(a)* Chorley constituency and *(b)* Lancashire. [299663]

Dawn Primarolo: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* chemistry, *(b)* biology and *(c)* physics initial teacher training entrants were recruited by the Training and Development Agency for Schools in (i) 2004, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2008. [296526]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* teachers and *(b)* classroom assistants were employed in maintained schools in North East Lincolnshire (i) in 1997 and (ii) on the latest date for which figures are available. [299630]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Teachers: Ex-Servicemen

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many ex-servicemen have entered the teaching profession as a result of his Department's Transition to Teaching programme; [296213]

(2) how many ex-servicemen have entered the teaching profession in each year for which figures are available; [296214]

(3) how many ex-servicemen have entered the teaching profession through his Department's Career Transition Partnership in each year since its inception. [296216]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Teachers: Males

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many mainstream maintained *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary schools have no male teachers. [296215]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Teachers: North West

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* teachers and *(b)* classroom assistants were employed in maintained schools in each local education authority area in the North West in each year since 1997. [299527]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Teachers: Training

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps are taken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* local education authorities to ensure the suitability of teacher training courses provided by independent faith schools. [297042]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The suitability of training for teachers in all independent schools is a matter for the schools themselves. The quality of teaching in independent schools is inspected against standards set out in regulations, including the need for teachers to demonstrate appropriate knowledge and understanding of the subject matter being taught.

While there is no Government funding available for initial teacher training for teachers in independent schools, some independent schools do take part in initial teacher training programmes like the Graduate Teacher programme to help train their teachers. The responsibility for ensuring the suitability of initial teacher training courses that involve teaching at an independent school lies with the accredited initial teacher training provider with which the trainee is registered. In addition, independent schools can access the same continuing professional development opportunities available to schools in the maintained sector.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many initial teacher training providers for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teachers were graded at C or below in their last two inspections for Training and Development Agency for schools performance profiles. [296435]

Mr. Coaker: Ofsted grades initial teacher training (ITT) providers on the following scale: Grade 1—outstanding; grade 2—good; grade 3—satisfactory; grade 4—inadequate. Providers inspected up to July 2008 were graded under three areas: Management and quality assurance, training and standards. The grades for these areas are in turn translated into Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) quality categories A, B or C using agreed calculations on the permutations of grades. A grade 3 in any area automatically results in quality category C designation.

The number of ITT providers awarded a TDA quality category of C or below based on their last two inspections was zero for primary school teachers and seven for secondary school teachers.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many initial teacher training providers had been graded at C or below at their most recent inspection prior to *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2005 and *(d)* 2009. [296474]

Mr. Coaker: Ofsted grades initial teacher training (ITT) providers on the following scale: Grade 1—outstanding; grade 2—good; grade 3—satisfactory; grade 4—inadequate. Providers inspected up to July 2008 were graded under three areas: Management and quality assurance, training and standards. The grades for these areas are in turn translated into Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) quality categories A, B or C using agreed calculations on the permutations of grades. A grade 3 in any area automatically results in quality category C designation.

The requested information is available from 2005/06 and is provided in the table. primary and secondary provision is separately graded. A provider offering both types of provision may be counted more than once in this table.

ITT providers awarded quality grade C. Years: 2005/06 to 2007/08
Coverage: England

	Providers awarded quality grade C			
	Mainstream providers			
	Primary	*Secondary*	*Employment based providers[1]*	*Total number of providers*
2005/06	17	22	100	239
2006/07	9	21	110	240
2007/08	4	18	100	236

[1] Full inspection of employment based routes began in 2008/09. Until inspection evidence is available they have been allocated a nominal uninspected C grade.

Ofsted inspection grades for 2008/09 have not yet been translated into TDA quality categories. In 2008/09, Ofsted awarded 11 providers a grade 3. There are 190 providers pending inspection.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many agreements with initial teacher training providers *(a)* the Training and Development Agency for Schools and its predecessors and *(b)* his Department and its predecessors have discontinued on quality grounds since 1997. [296475]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Young People: Connexions Service

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of 13 to 19-year-olds who were *(a)* not in employment, education or training and *(b)* in employment, education or training received guidance from a Connexions adviser in each local authority in each of the last five years. [297243]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information is not available in the form requested prior to April 2006. For the period 2006-09 the table records the average number of 16 to 18-year-olds in or not in employment, education or training receiving an intervention by a Connexions adviser, by local authority from April 2006. This table has been placed in the House Libraries. Interventions include face-to-face contact, telephone contact, e-mail and text messages, but several interventions may take place with the same young person.

Young People: Employment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of 16 year-olds are *(a)* employed and *(b)* non-employed apprentices on (i) Level 2 frameworks and (ii) Level 3 frameworks. [296040]

Dawn Primarolo: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of 17 year olds are *(a)* employed and *(b)* non-employed apprentices on (i) Level 2 frameworks and (ii) Level 3 frameworks. [299041]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

Youth Services: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the expenditure per head of the 14 to 19 year old population was on youth services in each London borough in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007-08. [296136]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government do not set a budget for spending on youth services. Local authorities decide what the expenditure should be, taking into account Government policy and local needs. The following table shows, for each London borough, the net expenditure and the net revenue expenditure on youth services and the revenue expenditure per head of the 14 to 19-year-old population in 2007-08. Data are not available prior to 1999-2000.

The Education (Outturn Statements) (England) Regulations

LEA net revenue expenditure on youth services[1] per head of population (aged 14 to 19)[2] in 2007-08, cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 27 October 2009

LA Number	*LA Name*	*Net expenditure on Youth Service[3]*	*LEA net revenue expenditure on Youth Service[1] [4]*	*Per pupil using weighted average[2]*
201	City of London	488,894	340,637	1,360
202	Camden	4,070,242	2,906,615	220
203	Greenwich	4,201,883	3,054,190	188
204	Hackney	3,658,070	2,620,219	177
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	1,360,209	1,360,209	153
206	Islington	3,317,180	3,317,180	296
207	Kensington and Chelsea	3,844,958	2,387,224	272
208	Lambeth	2,209,566	2,209,566	144
209	Lewisham	7,537,676	4,007,911	227
210	Southwark	5,568,826	3,900,032	236
211	Tower Hamlets	10,186,964	4,324,182	295
212	Wandsworth	3,165,923	2,257,793	183
213	Westminster	4,303,169	2,322,863	196
301	Barking and Dagenham	1,736,454	1,736,454	128
302	Barnet	2,584,704	1,556,122	67
303	Bexley	1,806,000	1,806,000	98
304	Brent	5,874,055	3,292,645	179
305	Bromley	1,600,121	1,433,409	65
306	Croydon	5,477,722	3,896,705	145
307	Ealing	2,294,791	1,625,881	80
308	Enfield	3,081,864	1,891,228	87
309	Haringey	2,263,627	1,584,867	107
310	Harrow	3,781,485	1,139,973	64
311	Havering	3,679,607	1,824,527	99
312	Hillingdon	5,463,930	1,793,451	88
313	Hounslow	4,316,236	1,336,824	87
314	Kingston upon Thames	1,387,720	1,259,782	113
315	Merton	1,137,317	1,099,760	88
316	Newham	3,201,136	2,801,501	135
317	Redbridge	3,919,597	2,114,779	104
318	Richmond upon Thames	1,848,695	1,433,872	131
319	Sutton	1,573,602	1,257,483	89
320	Waltham Forest	2,258,122	2,258,122	139

[1] Youth service expenditure includes the following items: employees; staff training; premises-related expenditure; transport related expenditure; supplies and services; third-party payments; support services; youth work costs at residential and non- residential youth centres; youth work costs at activity at outdoor and urban studies centres; grant funding to the voluntary sector for youth work.

[2] Population of 14 to 19-year-olds is based on ONS mid-year estimates for each local authority. A weighting of 3/4 to 1/4 has been given to the 2007 and 2008 figures in order to give an estimate for the financial year

[3] Net current expenditure includes all Government grants allocated to youth service.

[4] LA net revenue expenditure includes all Government grants allocated to youth service.

Ministerial Corrections

Monday 9 November 2009

CABINET OFFICE

National School of Government

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the estimated running costs of the National School of Government are in 2009-10; [283581]

(2) how much funding the Government is providing to the National School of Government in 2009-10; [283582]

(3) how much the National School of Government received from each Government Department in payment for courses for their staff in each of the last three years. [283588]

[Official Report, 8 July 2009, Vol. 495, c. 825-31W.]

Letter of correction from Tessa Jowell:

Errors have been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Chorley (Lindsey Hoyle) on 8 July 2009. It has come to my attention that the table included with the letter from the Principal and Chief Executive of the National School of Government contained a number of classification errors and other inconsistencies.

The National School of Government has checked the classification of the organisations and the correct table is as follows:

National School of Government: Income

			£
Organisation	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Accountant in Bankruptcy	0.00	6,295.00	6,900.00
Animal Health	3,125.00	21,192.00	29,000.00
Army Training and Recruiting Agency	0.00	75,000.00	0.00
Attorney-Generals Office	3,662.00	2,857.00	7,880.00
Buying Solutions	38,781.06	16,906.00	5,658.40
Cabinet Office	695,382.05	746,434.78	704,425.27
Central Office of Information	58,522.00	57,571.00	55,719.20
Central Science Laboratory	2,100.00	6,995.00	6,715.00
Centre for Applied Learning (NI)	14,608.00	34,669.79	17,275.00
Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	4,290.00	10,180.00	16,365.00
Charity Commission	6,647.00	8,445.00	20,926.00
Child Support Agency	49,012.98	43,810.25	18,097.00
Communities and Local Government	696,004.58	658,672.50	627,285.50
Companies House	13,594.00	12,544.00	12,767.50
Criminal Justice System	655.00	957.50	3,750.00
Criminal Records Bureau	69,569.66	11,435.00	16,321.25
Crown Office	2,860.00	295.00	0.00
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service	32,445.00	15,135.50	14,185.00
Crown Prosecution Service	103,600.22	132,822.70	110,068.00
Crown Solicitor's Office for NI	825.00	300.00	640.00
Defence Bills Agency	0.00	0.00	19,200.00
Defence Estates	87,731.27	2,850.00	5,130.00
Defence Procurement Agency	1,590.00	0.00	0.00
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory	57,834.00	30,215.00	42,155.96
Defence Storage and Distribution Agency	3,940.98	0.00	2,500.00
Defence Support Group	0.00	0.00	450.00
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	533,439.83	636,859.63	1,094,762.88
Department for Children, Schools and Families	770,205.47	702,053.29	737,187.63
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	204,312.35	270,726.45	240,528.80
Department for Employment and Learning (NI)	18,410.00	3,800.00	1,850.00
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	789,963.79	816,484.64	592,635.09
Department for International Development	1,295,474.76	1,683,721.55	1,735,146.65
Department for Regional Development (NI)	15,819.00	19,010.00	20,110.00
Department for Social Development, N. Ireland	259,753.28	111,723.69	14,207.07
Department for Transport	565,741.01	521,764.10	498,985.41
Department for Work and Pensions	399,109.84	796,729.52	1,477,014.74
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure NI	3,998.99	0.00	425.00
Department of Education NI	18,605.00	14,740.00	146.00
Department of Energy and Climate Change	0.00	0.00	12,904.00
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment NI	16,465.00	16,015.00	1,845.00
Department of Finance & Personnel Northern Ireland	127,356.06	42,680.20	49,710.60
Department of Health	379,172.96	409,235.82	568,525.99
Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety NI	20,333.66	650.00	18,365.00
Department of the Environment (NI)	16,944.00	8,610.00	4,210.00
Drinking Water Inspectorate	0.00	0.00	1,570.00
Driver and Vehicle Agency (NI)	1,125.00	0.00	0.00
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	142,469.64	111,404.55	110,443.70
Driving Standards Agency	30,089.26	22,323.00	42,775.00
Emergency Planning College	13,517.75	0.00	0.00
Export Credits Guarantee Department	26,015.84	51,151.50	26,709.00
Fire Service College	11,793.50	8,620.00	4,520.00
Fisheries Research Services	7,980.00	10,901.00	1,525.00
Food and Environment Research Agency	0.00	4,170.00	1,825.00
Food Standards Agency	325,528.19	406,997.81	282,230.01
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	975,577.45	993,019.34	1,452,446.94
Forestry Commission	31,575.50	65,366.00	78,434.86
General Register Office (Scotland)	7,830.00	3,815.00	2,380.00
Government Actuary's Department	370.00	370.00	6,750.00
Government Car and Despatch Agency	1,980.00	5,360.00	1,000.00
Government Communication Bureau	29,150.00	19,525.00	5,675.00
Government Communications Centre	5,400.00	20,160.00	24,980.50
Government Communications Headquarters	104,196.09	177,503.93	108,401.70
Government Communications Planning Directorate	30,705.32	19,141.56	22,863.78
Government Equalities Office	0.00	0.00	9,949.50
Government Office for London	70,741.24	13,055.00	12,708.00
Government Office for Merseyside	18,000.00	0.00	0.00

National School of Government: Income

£

Organisation	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Government Office for the East Midlands	7,490.00	6,660.00	40,755.00
Government Office for the East of England	0.00	3,975.00	975.00
Government Office for the North East	1,860.00	16,197.10	3,000.00
Government Office for the North West	105,279.84	125,066.19	104,360.29
Government Office for the South East	9,934.50	8,766.00	3,595.00
Government Office for the South West	29,909.27	10,010.00	4,015.00
Government Office for the West Midlands	8,787.00	22,500.00	25,655.00
Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber	0.00	2,783.50	11,350.00
Government Skills	0.00	4,385.00	32,540.50
Health and Safety Commission	0.00	305.00	0.00
Health and Safety Executive	247,182.20	298,267.57	221,732.00
Health and Safety Laboratory	6,746.00	1,700.00	6,525.00
Highways Agency	167,206.52	128,602.50	116,830.00
Historic Scotland	3,728.00	2,495.00	4,102.50
HM Courts Service	36,025.40	85,219.50	101,623.00
HM Inspectorate of Probation	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
HM Land Registry	200,159.78	305,401.00	197,680.50
HM Prison Service	186,700.94	325,205.71	340,630.61
HM Revenue and Customs	672,134.09	560,235.05	1,108,759.88
HM Treasury	438,574.84	428,926.99	566,707.00
Home Office	1,333,578.42	1,059,906.73	1,328,925.66
Identity and Passport Service	146,643.49	150,221.94	175,972.20
Insolvency Service	33,709.00	36,294.50	54,605.00
Intellectual Property Office	44,333.26	70,050.75	114,944.08
Jobcentre Plus	87,214.85	55,355.17	103,064.50
Lands and Property Services (NI)	470.00	0.00	0.00
Law Officers' Departments	0.00	0.00	705.00
Marine and Fisheries Agency	0.00	555.00	12,575.00
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	26,624.25	17,717.50	14,329.00
Meat Hygiene Service	14,807.00	3,450.00	12,750.00
Medicines and Health Care Products Regulatory Agency	17,336.80	7,872.00	31,809.50
Met Office	57,541.63	54,230.20	30,139.00
Ministry of Defence	2,100,290.72	2,304,843.86	2,557,260.07
Ministry of Defence - Defence Equipment and Support	0.00	0.00	6,400.00
Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency	0.00	0.00	9,722.72
Ministry of Justice	510,574.70	721,903.11	881,247.05
National Archives	32,139.50	19,977.50	34,706.00
National Archives of Scotland	0.00	940.00	270.00
National Offender Management Service	0	1,760.00	14,150.00
National Savings and Investments	4,345.00	10,200.00	7,847.00
Northern Ireland Civil Service	4,710.00	1,670.00	1,080.00
Northern Ireland Court Service	36,195.00	28,966.00	30,647.00
Northern Ireland Environment Agency	355.00	95.00	1,060.00
Northern Ireland Office	172,310.12	155,710.05	145,076.75
Northern Ireland Prison Service	5,850.00	3,550.00	4,725.00
Office for Criminal Justice Reform	0.00	2,260.00	36,054.50
Office for National Statistics	83,336.65	117,464.00	141,930.01
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills	98,350.00	60,080.00	63,075.00
Office of Climate Change	0.00	7,440.00	2,930.00
Office of Fair Trading	73,978.25	38,533.00	55,756.86
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets	32,274.00	20,722.00	8,970.40
Office of Government Commerce	112,563.69	136,065.35	146,958.60
Office of Rail Regulation	43,506.00	52,744.00	35,532.50
Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (NI)	6,070.29	1,889.50	585.00
Office of the Legal Services Complaints Commissioner	8,790.00	4,580.00	895.00
Office of the Public Guardian	4,183.00	12,443.00	18,901.00
Office of Water Services	9,777.50	2,200.00	6,061.00
Offices of Court Funds, Official Solicitor & Public Trustee	0.00	0.00	2,235.00
Ordnance Survey	12,601.50	24,065.00	16,755.50
Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland	0.00	4,680.00	841.00
Pensions Transformation Programme	1,500.00	0.00	0.00
Pesticides Safety Directorate	805.00	450.00	0.00
Planning Inspectorate	4,164.00	18,295.00	51,036.00
Postal Services Commission (Postcomm)	12,755.00	64,548.50	51,648.00
Prime Minister's Delivery Unit	2,420.00	0.00	750.00
Prime Minister's Office	3,915.00	2,585.00	17,991.00
Prison Service College	2,720.00	0.00	0.00
Privy Council Office	36,865.00	17,850.00	4,100.00
Public Prosecution Service (NI)	4,660.00	2,479.00	5,940.00
Public Service Management Wales	0.00	10,000.00	0.00
RAF High Wycombe	0.00	0.00	350.00
Regional Co-ordination Unit	0.00	15,766.67	4,000.00
Registers of Scotland	41,321.50	38,880.00	54,444.00
Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office	25,220.00	72,941.50	53,264.00
Royal Mint	2,050.00	2,350.00	350.00
Royal Parks	12,214.50	8,175.00	10,740.00
Rural Payments Agency	66,269.88	71,265.50	57,441.00
Scotland Office	7,[illegible]45.00	2,755.00	5,895.00
Scottish Agricultural Science Agency	2,475.00	2,425.00	4,345.00
Scottish Executive Health Directorate	1,445.00	0.00	0.00
Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency	0.00	1,580.00	10,395.00
Scottish Information Commissioner	0.00	0.00	3,005.00
Scottish Public Pensions Agency	11,275.05	12,825.00	19,360.49
Serious Fraud Office	17,024.00	47,941.50	31,097.00
Service Personnel and Veterans Agency	0.00	1,025.00	2,000.00
Social Security Agency (NI)	1,737.50	0.00	0.00
Specialist Procurement Services Agency	0.00	95.00	0.00
The Advocate General for Scotland	1,825.00	0.00	0.00
The Crown Estate	285.00	0.00	0.00
The National Assembly for Wales	324,061.86	172,351.50	64,490.00
The Pension Service	70,013.23	8,665.00	32,434.00
The Planning Service (NI)	0.00	95.00	125.00
The Rent Service	34,092.10	10,990.00	16,013.00
The Scottish Government	189,504.80	237,124.79	280,116.91
The Scottish Parliament	17,805.00	6,356.00	14,754.00
The Security Service	0.00	15,457.00	2,450.00
Transport Scotland	2,770.00	2,358.00	3,295.00
Treasury Solicitor's Department	218,860.65	255,764.75	230,353.50
Tribunals Service	1,055.00	37,867.86	26,502.00

National School of Government: Income

£

Organisation	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
UK Border Agency	75,433.30	45,302.00	13,313.25
UK Trade and Investment	96,541.83	42,649.75	87,350.82
United Kingdom Debt Management Office	1,065.00	500.00	0.00
United Kingdom Hydrographic Office	7,253.11	13,215.00	9,915.00
Valuation Office Agency	22,910.50	22,120.00	11,590.00
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	62,287.25	43,570.00	40,554.44
Vehicle Certification Agency	1,355.00	3,525.00	0.00
Veterinary Laboratories Agency	11,076.50	11,479.00	2,650.00
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	10,909.50	19,135.50	16,403.00
Wales Office	3,975.00	4,596.00	1,617.00
Welsh Assembly Government	14,609.30	166,689.74	247,743.84
Wilton Park	360.00	0.00	395.00

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Free Swimming Scheme

15. **Shona McIsaac** (Cleethorpes) (Lab): What recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on rates of local authority participation in the Government's free swimming scheme. [295535]

[Official Report, 27 October 2009, Vol. 498, c: 155.]

Letter of correction from Rosie W[illegible]erton:

An error has been identified in the oral answer given to the hon. Member for Cleethorpes (Shona McIsaac) on 27 October 2009. The full answer given was as follows. I have notified the MP of the error.

15. **Shona McIsaac** (Cleethorpes) (Lab): What recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on rates of local authority participation in the Government's free swimming scheme. [295535]

The Minister for Regional Economic Development and Co-ordination (Ms Rosie Winterton): There are regular discussions across Departments on the free swimming scheme. Of the 553 eligible local authorities, 260 are offering free swimming under the free swimming scheme, and 4.5 million people have used the programme across England.

The correct answer should have been:

The Minister for Regional Economic Development and Co-ordination (Ms Rosie Winterton): There are regular discussions across Departments on the free swimming scheme. Of the 353 eligible local authorities, 260 are offering free swimming under the free swimming scheme, and 4.5 million people have used the programme across England.

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 11 November 2009

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Injuries

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel have sustained *(a)* damage to, *(b)* partial loss and *(c)* total loss of (i) upper and (ii) lower limbs in (A) Afghanistan and (B) Iraq in each of the last 36 months; what proportion of such injuries in each category became infected; and if he will make a statement. [290859]

[Official Report, 2 November 2009, Vol. 498, c. 643W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Kevan Jones:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) on 2 November 2009.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 9 September 2009]*: The following gives the numbers of surviving UK service personnel whose injuries included those coded as a traumatic or surgical amputation, partial or complete, for either upper or lower limbs between 1 April 2006 and 30 September 2009 as a result of operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. This injury code covers injuries ranging from the loss of part of a finger or toe up to the loss of an entire limb or limbs. To indicate the number with severe multiple limb injuries, those classified as "significant multiple amputees" have suffered limb amputations above the wrist or ankle on more than one limb; in other words, they have lost at least two hands or feet. Note that there were no significant multiple amputees arising from operations in Iraq in this period.

	Afghanistan		*Iraq*
Period	*Partial or complete limb amputees*	*of which, significant multiple amputees*	*Partial or complete limb amputees*
April to December 2006	7	[1]—	5
January to December 2007	14	[1]—	10
January to December 2008	27	6	[1]—
January to September 2009	32	13	0

[1] Signifies a number less than five, inserted to protect patient confidentiality.

More detailed information covering all limb injuries and infections is not held centrally, and would require investigation of the reports of all field hospitals and other deployed medical facilities for the last three years.

Full information could be retrieved only by obtaining permission from individual patients to interrogate their medical records, which would entail disproportionate cost.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 12 November 2009

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Portcullis House: Smoking

Mr. Hoban: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much the smoking shelter constructed between Norman Shaw North and Portcullis House is expected to cost. [296230]

[Official Report, 28 October 2009, Vol. 498, c. 353W.]

Letter of correction from Nick Harvey:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 28 October. The original answer said that the smoking shelter was forecast to cost £49,000.

The correct answer should have been:

Nick Harvey: Final accounts have yet to be settled but the smoking shelter is expected to cost just below £33,000.